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Official: Solving wild horse problem will take \$5B, 15 years

By SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — It will take \$5 billion and 15 years to get an overpopulation of wild horses under control on federal lands across the West, the acting head of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management said Wednesday, adding that several developments have made him more optimistic about his agency's ability to get the job done. William Perry Pendley said the agency adopted out more than 7,000 mustangs and burros captured last year — the most in 15 years and a 54% increase from the previous year. He said that helps clear space in government holding pens, so they can accelerate roundups while scientists develop new fertility-control drugs to eventually shrink the size of the herds from 88,000 to the 27,000 he says the range can sustain.



In this June 29, 2018, file photo, wild horses kick up dust as they run at a watering hole outside Salt Lake City.

He said a new coalition of animal welfare advocates and ranchers is helping promote solutions and Congress appears willing

to help. Pendley said the agency is in the process of hiring additional staff to speed roundups in Nevada, the state with the

most horses. "I'm not going to speculate on what Congress is going to do about money," Pendley said.

"But I know there is a sense of sincerity on the Hill about this issue. They get it."

Associated Press

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ICE withdraws big fines for immigrants living in churches

By KANTELE FRANKO

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is reversing course months after threatening six-figure fines against immigrants taking sanctuary at churches.

Seven women have been notified that ICE, using its discretion, is withdrawing its intent to pursue fines ranging from \$300,000 and \$500,000 for their refusal to leave the country as ordered, according to the National Sanctuary Collective, a coalition of attorneys, organizers and other advocates for them. They count it as a victory.

"We knew that these exorbitant fines were illegal and were nothing more than a tool to scare our clients and retaliate against them for fighting back and standing up to this administration," attorney Lizbeth Mateo, who represents a Mexican woman living at an Ohio church, said in a statement. Mateo said immigration officials should exercise the same discretion "to release sanctuary families."



In a Wednesday, July 17, 2019 file photo, Maria Chavalan-Sut of Guatemala, one of a number of immigrants taking sanctuary at houses of worship, speaks during an interview at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Charlottesville, Va.

The immigrants have remained in the U.S. in violation of the law and still are subject to removal orders that ICE will enforce "using any and all available means," agency spokesman Richard Rocha said in an email. He said ICE also could reassess the fines. Immigrants have sought

relief from deportation at houses of worship because immigration officials consider them "sensitive locations" and avoid enforcement action at such sites. Maria Chavalan-Sut, an indigenous woman from Guatemala, seeking asylum moved into a United Methodist church in Char-

lottesville, Virginia. Another woman has lived in sanctuary with her 11-year-old son in Austin, Texas, for more than two years.

In a statement, she said ICE's reversal on the fines is "an example of what speaking out and organizing can accomplish." The agency said it issued a

total of nine notifications in June about its intent to pursue fines. It said Wednesday that eight of those have been withdrawn, and one still is being pursued. It didn't identify those cases or name the immigrants involved.

The six-figure penalties were another reminder of how President Donald Trump has made cracking down immigration - legal and illegal - a top domestic priority.

Immigrants who are free on bond but ordered to leave the country are typically given a date to report to immigration authorities for removal. Others are ordered to check in with authorities, which, under former President Barack Obama-era policies, generally didn't result in deportation unless the person was convicted of a serious crime in the United States.

Trump lifted those restrictions almost immediately, causing people to get deported when they reported to ICE offices as instructed and discouraging others from coming. □

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Official: Solving wild horse problem will take \$5B, 15 years

Continued from Front

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$35 million last month for a new package of mustang proposals supported by an unprecedented alliance including the Humane Society of the United States, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and American Farm Bureau Federation.

They say it would eliminate the threat of slaughter for thousands of free-roaming horses and shrink the size of herds primarily through expanded fertility controls on the range and increased roundups in certain areas. The proposal has been condemned by the largest and oldest mustang protection groups in the West, including the American Wild Horse Campaign and Friends of Animals.

"This proposal, which is really a betrayal by so-called wild horse advocates who are in bed with the meat industry, is management for extinction and putting money toward it is a step toward eradicating these iconic animals from our public lands," Friends of Animals President Priscilla Feral said in a statement Wednesday.

In July, then-Acting BLM Director Casey Hammond said the Trump administration won't pursue lethal measures such as euthanasia or selling horses for slaughter.

But critics say the new plan could allow for sterilization of mares. They argue the

animals must be permitted to roam the range in federally protected management areas established under the Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

They say BLM's population quotas are often outdated and lack scientific data to support roundups to cull herd sizes.

The \$35 million the Senate committee approved is part of the \$35.8 billion Interior Department appropriation bill. It's not clear when the full Senate will consider the measure.

Pendley said the agency is spending \$50 million a year to house 50,000 captured horses in government corals and another \$30 million in associated costs.

Alan Shepherd, the head of the bureau's wild horse and burro program in Nevada, planned to join members of the new coalition at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno Wednesday night for the screening of a documentary that blames horses for severe degradation of federal rangeland.

Doug Busselman, executive director of the Nevada Farm Bureau, said his group still wants Congress to allow the government to sell excess horses without the current ban on their resale for slaughter.

"As long as the numbers are so far above appropriate management levels, the tools of fertility control and adoption don't accomplish the needs for having wild horse and burro populations match the carrying capacity of the herd management levels and the

destruction of the habitat will continue," he said in a statement.

Conservationists say more damage is caused by the cattle and sheep that graze on public lands at a ratio of 15-to-1 mustangs.

"This film is a propaganda piece ... that scapegoats relatively rare wild horses for problems that in truth are caused by the domestic cattle that are widespread environmental problems across the West," said Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist for the Western Watersheds Project. □



In this June 29, 2018 file photo, wild horses drink from a watering hole outside Salt Lake City.

Associated Press



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Chaotic scene as Republicans disrupt impeachment deposition

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans briefly brought the Democrat-led impeachment investigation to a halt Wednesday when around two dozen GOP House members stormed into a closed-door deposition with a Defense Department official. Democrats said the move compromised national security because some of the Republicans brought electronic devices into a secure room. The protest by Republican lawmakers captured national attention, drawing the focus away from the testimony of a top U.S. diplomat who told lawmakers just a day earlier that he was told President Donald Trump was withholding military aid from Ukraine unless the country's president pledged to investigate Democrats.

The maneuver delayed a deposition with Laura Cooper, a senior Defense Department official who oversees Ukraine policy, until midafternoon. The interview began roughly five hours behind schedule, after a security check by Capitol officials, and ended after roughly four hours. As a series of diplomats have been interviewed in the impeachment probe, many Republicans have been silent on the president's conduct. But they have been outspoken about their disdain for Democrats and the impeachment process, saying it is unfair to them even though they have been in the room questioning witnesses and hearing the testimony.

"The members have just had it, and they want to be able to see and represent their constituents and



House Republicans gather for a news conference after Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Laura Cooper arrived for a closed door meeting to testify as part of the House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

find out what's going on," said Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, the top Republican on the House Oversight and Reform panel. That committee is one of three leading the investigation, and its members are allowed into the closed-door hearings. Lawmakers described a chaotic scene. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., said she had just walked into the room when the Republican lawmakers blew past Capitol police officers and Democratic staffers. The staff member who was checking identification at the entrance was "basically overcome" by the Republicans, she said. "Literally some of them were just screaming about the president and what we're doing to him and that we have nothing and just all things that were supportive of the president," Wasserman Schultz said.

Later when the deposition began, Cooper answered questions from lawmakers and staffers in response to a

subpoena, an official working on the impeachment inquiry said. She explained to lawmakers the process of distributing military aid and was asked whether the appropriate steps were followed on Ukraine, according to a person familiar with the interview.

Both the official working on the impeachment inquiry and the person familiar with the interview spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door testimony.

"The president's allies in Congress are trying to make it even more difficult for these witnesses to cooperate," Adam Schiff, the chairman of the House intelligence committee. Democrats deny that Republicans are being treated unfairly, noting they have had equal time to question witnesses and full access to the meetings. Schiff says closed-door hearings are necessary to prevent witnesses from concealing the truth and has promised

to release the transcripts when it will not affect the investigation. They also said the Republicans — several of whom do not sit on one of the three committees — compromised security at Wednesday's closed-door deposition. The interviews are being held in what is

called a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, or SCIF, which is a secure room where members can hear classified information.

Several lawmakers leaving the facility said that some of the Republicans brought their cellphones, even though electronics are not allowed. All members of Congress are familiar with the protocol of the SCIF, since they are often invited to classified briefings, and there are several such rooms around the Capitol. Several Republicans appeared to be tweeting from the secure room. North Carolina Rep. Mark Walker tweeted: "UPDATE: We are in the SCIF and every GOP Member is quietly listening."

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., who chairs the House Homeland Security Committee, alleged that Republicans "intentionally brought their electronic devices" into the secure area, violating congressional rules and the oath they take to gain access to classified information. □

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Judge eases Christmas treecutting ban in fight over owl

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— The scope of a tree-cutting ban across several national forests in the Southwest has been further narrowed to allow for Christmas tree permits and prescribed burns under a new order issued by a U.S. judge in an ongoing fight over a threatened owl.

The order was filed late Tuesday, a day after environmentalists and the U.S. Forest Service reached an agreement on what types of activities would be allowed to continue across thousands of square miles of forest in New Mexico and Arizona without harming the Mexican spotted owl or its habitat.

The activities permitted by the latest court order include the cutting of a tree in northern New Mexico that will be put on display for Christmas outside the U.S. Capitol.

Legal wrangling had threatened to stall the cutting of the tree and a state-wide tour ahead of its trip to Washington, D.C.

The gathering of firewood by rural residents also was at issue as the Forest Service interpreted Judge Raner Collins' initial order to mean all timber management activities across five New Mexico forests and one in Arizona would be halted until forest and wildlife managers came up with a way to count the owls as part of a recovery

plan. Environmentalists argued that the Forest Service's interpretation was overly broad and asked the judge for clarification. They ended up reaching an agreement with federal officials, resulting in stipulations Collins included in his latest order.

"None of these activities that we agreed to release from the injunction, whether cutting the Capitol Christmas tree or conducting trail maintenance, were ever a serious threat to the owl," said John Horning, executive director of WildEarth Guardians. "We hope the Forest Service reorients to the work of recovering the owl by adequately monitoring its population."

Still pending is a request by the Forest Service for the judge to reconsider his initial ruling that found federal officials fell short of their responsibility to monitor the owl. Arguments are set for Nov. 7.

The case started in 2013, when environmentalists alleged that the Forest Service failed to consider the effects of thinning and logging on Mexican spotted owls.

First listed as threatened in the U.S. in 1993, the Mexican spotted owl is found in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, parts of West Texas and Mexico.

The Forest Service has argued that moving ahead with prescribed burns and thinning projects will address wildfire threats and



In this July 11, 2002, file photo, Dr. Kathleen Ramsay gets the attention of "Manchado," a Mexican Spotted Owl at the Wildlife Center near Espanola, N.M.

Associated Press

ultimately make for a healthier environment. The agency said in a statement Wednesday it would be transparent in the steps it takes to alleviate "stressors" that have resulted from the initial limits on timber management activities. □



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Most states not giving driver's license data to Washington

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — An effort by the U.S. Census Bureau to collect state driver's license records as part of President Donald Trump's order to gather citizenship information has been a bust so far.

As of Wednesday, the vast majority of state motor vehicle agencies had not agreed to share their records with the bureau, according to an Associated Press survey of the 50 states. The effort over the past couple of months has alarmed civil rights groups, which see it as part of a backdoor move by the Trump administration to reduce the political power of minorities.

In August, the bureau began requesting five years' worth of driver's license records, promising the information would be kept confidential. The effort began after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the Trump administration plan to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, and the president instead ordered citizenship data compiled through federal and state administrative records.

At least 13 states have refused to share the driver's license data, 17 are still deciding what to do, and 17 haven't yet received a request, according to the AP survey. Three states didn't respond to multiple AP queries.

Republican and Democratic states alike have said no, citing privacy concerns and prohibitions in state law.

"Philosophically, we believe the information in the da-



A Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles drivers license service center is shown, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, in Hialeah, Fla.

Associated Press

tabase doesn't belong to us. It belongs to the people who it pertains to," Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap said. "It's not ours to give away."

Two of the biggest states, California and New York, haven't received requests yet. Three more of the top five most populous states — Texas, Florida and Pennsylvania — are deciding how to respond.

Census Bureau officials had no immediate comment.

Many states got calls or emails similar to one from a Census Bureau official asking an Arkansas Driver Services official if she had time to discuss the bureau's "new and exciting project."

Scott Hardin, a spokesman for the Arkansas agency, said: "We are currently working to determine

whether the requested information is eligible for release."

Utah officials turned down the request because state law says personal data can be shared only for public safety reasons, said Marissa Cote, a spokeswoman for the Department of Public Safety in the Republican-leaning state.

Democratic-leaning Nevada also declined.

"We value our residents' privacy and hesitate to release records in bulk," said Kevin Malone, a spokesman for the motor vehicle agency.

States that haven't decided how to respond said they were researching the legal and privacy implications. In issuing driver's licenses, most states require documents such as a birth

certificate that would reflect citizenship or require that recipients be either citizens or in the U.S. legally. The American Civil Liberties Union has urged states to turn the Census Bureau down.

The ACLU and other civil rights groups say the requests are part of an overall strategy by the Trump administration to encourage states to use counts of citizens only, as opposed to total population, when redrawing state and local electoral districts. Such a move could make districts older, whiter and more Republican.

"This endeavor appears to be part of a scheme motivated by an unconstitutional discriminatory purpose to dilute the political power of communities of

color," said Dale Ho, director of the ACLU's Voting Rights Project. The Census Bureau said in its requests that the driver's license records would be used, in part, to help build a statistical model for calculating the number of citizens and noncitizens in the U.S.

Even though the president's order requires collecting the citizenship information, Census Bureau officials are concerned that it could hinder efforts to get people to participate in the 2020 census. The bureau's own research showed adding a citizenship question to the 2020 questionnaire would have reduced participation, making for a less accurate count.

Civil rights groups say driver's license records do a poor job of showing if a person is a citizen.

They point to what happened earlier this year when Texas' election chief gave prosecutors a list of 95,000 potential noncitizens on the state's voter rolls. The list was drawn up with the help of motor vehicle records. But it turned out that many of those people had become citizens before casting their ballots.

The battle over whether citizen-only counts can be used for congressional reapportionment or redistricting at the state and local levels is being waged in federal courtrooms in Alabama and Maryland.

It has been longstanding practice in the U.S. to include immigrants living in the country illegally in census counts, which are also used to allocate billions of dollars in federal spending. □

Missouri farmer charged in killing of Wisconsin brothers

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH**

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

A Missouri cattle farmer charged Wednesday with two counts of first-degree murder shot two brothers from Wisconsin, burned their bodies and dumped the remains on a manure pile on his property, investigators said. Garland Nelson, 25, of Braymer, is also charged with two counts of abandonment of a corpse, two counts of tampering with physical evidence in felony prosecution, two counts of armed criminal action, tampering with a motor vehicle and unlawful possession of a firearm, according to documents filed in Caldwell County, Missouri. Nelson is accused in the deaths of Nick Diemel, 35, and Justin Diemel, 24, of Shawano County, Wisconsin. Jack Diemel, the brothers' father, said the two had traveled to Nelson's northwestern Missouri farm to collect on a \$250,000 debt, according to a probable cause statement. The father reported his sons missing July 21 after they failed to show up for a flight home to Milwaukee and did not answer their phones.

If convicted of murder, Nelson could face life in prison without parole, or the death penalty, Caldwell

County Sheriff Jerry Galloway said during a news conference Wednesday morning. Garland is jailed without bond.

A man who answered the phone Wednesday at the Diemel family's cattle farm, Diemel's Livestock LLC, said he was the brother of the victims but declined to comment on the charges. Nick Diemel's wife, Lisa Diemel, didn't immediately return a phone message. Her attorney, Jennifer Voigt, wasn't commenting on the charges, said a woman who answered the phone in Voigt's office.

According to the probable cause statement, Nelson shot the brothers then put their bodies in 55-gallon metal barrels and used a skid loader to move them one at a time from a barn to a pasture. There, he burned them using diesel fuel and an unknown liquid. Nelson told investigators he then dumped the remains on a manure pile and hid the barrels elsewhere on his property, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) northeast of Kansas City, Missouri.

Authorities used DNA comparisons to identify the remains as the Diemel brothers, according to the court documents.

Nelson also drove the brothers' rented truck from his farm to a commuter



This undated file photo provided by the Caldwell County, Mo., Detention Center shows Garland Nelson.

parking lot, where it was found abandoned, authorities said. "Throughout the investigation (Nelson) provided hours of interviews with investigators and gave many misleading explanations and recollections of events in attempts to mislead law enforcement in locating Nicholas and Justin Diemel," Maj. Mitchell Allen with the Caldwell County sheriff's office said, according to the probable cause statement.

Galloway admitted the case had been among the most challenging he has worked. Rob Chubb, who managed the feeder cattle side of the Diemels' business, said he believes Nelson lured the brothers to his property with a promise of repaying his debt but with the intention of killing them. Authorities have not said anything to indicate this is what happened.

Chubb said he knew from the day the brothers went missing that Nelson was in-

involved because he owed the brothers money from a business deal in January.

"I just can't believe somebody is so selfish, so cruel. I don't know how somebody does something like that -- to kill somebody and put them in barrels and burn them," Chubb said. "It takes a really sick individual."

Nelson was sentenced in 2016 to two years in prison for selling more than 600 head of cattle that did not belong to him. Nelson pleaded guilty to cattle fraud that caused more than \$262,000 in losses. He was released from prison in March 2018. He also pleaded guilty in August 2015 to two misdemeanor counts of passing bad checks.

Nelson also faces charges in Kansas of endangering the food supply. Prosecutors there said Nelson didn't have proper health papers in May when he took 35 calves from his family's farm to a farm in Fort Scott, Kansas. □

Associated Press

Police: Gunman, victim in shooting near school tied to gangs

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) —

A teenage gunman and the boy he shot just outside a Northern California high school are affiliated with street gangs and were involved in an ongoing dispute, authorities said Wednesday.

Santa Rosa police located the 17-year-old shooter's .32 caliber revolver Tuesday night discarded in some bushes about 3½ miles (5.6 kilometers) from Ridgway High School, authorities said. The gun had four rounds of ammunition and two spent cartridges; it

was stolen in 2016 in a residential burglary in Santa Rosa, police said.

The 16-year-old victim was shot twice and released from a hospital Tuesday night, Capt. John Cregan told The Associated Press. He would not identify the gangs.

The gunman and the victim argued Tuesday morning outside of the high school, where both are students, as part of an ongoing dispute, he said. The gunman opened fire, triggering a lockdown for thousands of students and staff in



Santa Rosa police officers hold guns as they search the campus of Ridgway High School for suspects after a shooting at the school in Santa Rosa, Calif., Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

three schools before police tracked him to a gym class nearly two hours later.

"The investigation has

shown this was an isolated incident of violence following a verbal altercation," the statement said. □



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Grim find: 39 dead in one of UK's worst trafficking cases

By GREGORY KATZ
ALASTAIR GRANT
Associated Press

GRAYS, England (AP) — Authorities found 39 people dead in a truck in an industrial park in England on Wednesday and arrested the driver on suspicion of murder in one of Britain's worst human-smuggling tragedies.

Police were reconstructing the final journey of the victims as they tried to piece together where they were from and how they came to be in England.

"To put 39 people into a locked metal container shows a contempt for human life that is evil," said Jackie Doyle-Price, a member of Parliament who represents the area where the truck was found. "The best thing we can do in memory of those victims is to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice."

The truck and the trailer with the people inside apparently took separate circuitous journeys before ending up on the grounds of the Waterglade Industrial Park in Grays, 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of London on the River Thames.

British police said they believe the container went from the port of Zeebrugge in Belgium to Purfleet, England, where it arrived early Wednesday. Police believe the tractor traveled from Northern Ireland to Dub-



Police escort the truck, that was found to contain a large number of dead bodies, as they move it from an industrial estate in Thurrock, south England, Wednesday Oct. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

lin, where it took a ferry to Holyhead in Wales before picking up the trailer at the dockside in England.

The truck's driver — a 25-year-old man from Northern Ireland — was arrested on suspicion of murder. He has not been charged and his name has not been released.

The truck was registered in Bulgaria to a company owned by an Irish citizen, Bulgaria's Foreign Ministry said. It's point of origin was unclear. The Belgian federal prosecutor's office said it has opened an investigation.

"We have no idea at the moment how long the lorry (truck) spent in Belgium,"

said spokesman Eric Van Duyse. "It could be hours or days. We just don't know."

As darkness approached Wednesday, a police motorcycle escort slowly led the Scania semitrailer out of the industrial park, taking it to a place where the bodies could be recovered. The driver of the trailer wore a full forensic suit and gloves as he guided the massive vehicle in the impromptu cortege past journalists.

Britain remains an attractive destination for immigrants, even as the U.K. is negotiating its divorce from the European Union. In Parliament, Prime Minister Boris Johnson put aside the Brexit crisis and vowed that

human traffickers would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

"All such traders in human beings should be hunted down and brought to justice," he said.

Ambulance workers discovered the bodies after being called at 1:40 a.m. It was unclear who called the ambulance service.

No cause of death has been made public. Police said one victim appeared to be a teenager but gave no further details.

The number of victims was shocking, although it has become sadly common in recent years for small numbers of migrants to occasionally be found dead in

sealed vehicles after having been abandoned by traffickers.

The tragedy recalls the death of 58 migrants in 2000 in a truck in Dover, England, and the deaths in 2015 of 71 migrants from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan who were found suffocated in the back of a refrigerated truck that was abandoned on an Austrian highway close to the Hungarian border.

Groups of migrants have repeatedly landed on English shores using small boats for the risky Channel crossing, and migrants are sometimes found in the trunks of cars that disembark from the massive ferries that link France and England, but Wednesday's macabre find in an industrial park was a reminder that trafficking gangs are still profiting from the human trade. Police also were investigating a separate incident in which nine people were found traveling in the back of a truck in southeast England.

The National Crime Agency said its specialists were working to "urgently identify and take action against any organized crime groups who have played a role in causing these deaths." It said in May that the number of people being smuggled into Britain via cargo trucks was on the rise. □

PM Conte defends Italy's intelligence contacts with US



Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte sits before testifying behind closed doors to COPASIR (Italian parliamentary intelligence committee) about a meeting between United States Attorney General William Barr and Italian intelligence, in Rome, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

By COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said Wednesday U.S. Attorney General William Barr was seeking information about the activities of FBI agents assigned to Italy in his meetings with Italian intelligence officials this summer. Conte insisted on the complete legitimacy of both the meetings and his own role, during a press conference after testifying behind closed doors to the parliamentary intelligence committee in Rome.

The two meetings, in August and in September,

related to a U.S. investigation into the origin of a probe into Russian election interference in the 2016 election won by President Trump. Conte said Barr's request arrived via normal diplomatic channels for "a preliminary exchange of information with our intelligence aimed at verifying activities of American agents. This must be clear." Conte argued that Italian law gives the country's premier sole responsibility for responding to intelligence requests, and that he could not seek, for example, preliminary clearance from the parlia-

mentary intelligence committee or legally discuss the request with any minister or political leader.

Conte also emphasized that the Americans showed no interest in the activities of Italian intelligence, and that the Italian intelligence services were "completely extraneous to these events."

Conte said that Barr first held a "preliminary technical" meeting with intelligence officials in offices at Rome's Piazza Dante on Aug. 15. That was followed up with another meeting in the same offices on Sept. 27. □



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Botswana votes as ruling party faces surprising challenge

By SELLO MOTSETA

Associated Press

GABORONE, Botswana (AP)

— Botswana faced its tightest election in history on Wednesday as the long-peaceful southern African nation wondered if the ruling party would be toppled for the first time since independence.

The ruling Botswana Democratic Party and President Mokgweetsi Masisi have been presented with a surprising challenge after former President Ian Khama broke away and announced his support for an opposition coalition instead.

Khama hand-picked Masisi as his successor when he stepped down last year following two terms in office in the diamond-rich country. But Masisi then moved away from some of Khama's policies, including by loosening restrictions on elephant hunting to appeal to rural voters.

Opposition leaders say their coalition could unseat the ruling party for the first time since independence in 1966. Khama has open-



People line up to vote right before closing time in Botswana's general elections at the Bosele Primary school in Gaborone Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019.

ly supported the opposition coalition Umbrella for Democratic Change and its presidential candidate, human rights lawyer Duma Boko.

"With their vote they will rewrite the history of this country," a buoyant Boko said, indicating the long lines at a school in the capital, Gaborone. He called the pro-

cess smooth. His campaign pledges included creating 100,000 jobs in his first year in office and providing free sanitary pads to girls across the country.

Khama said Wednesday he had become "extremely disappointed" with his former party after assuming Masisi would build on its legacy, according to foot-

age posted online by South African broadcaster EWN. "We've just seen somebody who became drunk on power," Khama asserted. "It's just astonishing."

The election could hinge on whether people support Khama's move. Some in Botswana have criticized the former president's rejection of his own party and sug-

gested that he is trying to extend his influence.

Botswana's president after voting simply noted the country's stability and "predictability in terms of conduct" and he expressed concern about the hot weather: "I would hope that the people will protect themselves from the heat and I ask you to drink lots of water, wait patiently in line and cast your vote," Masisi said.

Despite the tensions among political leaders, voting appeared calm.

"The good thing we have managed to maintain as Botswana is that people do not fight against one another. People are chatting to each other," said Sam Modise, who arrived at a polling station at 5 a.m.

"This helps a lot in terms of maintaining our democracy. If somebody misbehaves it will be an isolated case."

He added: "My wife and I are not necessarily voting for the same party but it doesn't affect our relationship. She has her own views." □

Associated Press

Ukraine's president urges lawmakers to take polygraph test

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)

— Ukraine's president on Wednesday urged a group of lawmakers to take a lie detector test to show they are not involved in a widening corruption scandal. Volodymyr Zelenskiy's ruling party has been shaken by local media reports that several of its members at the Supreme Rada accepted up to \$30,000 in bribes each for pushing through an amendment this month that would benefit property companies linked to another lawmaker.

Ukraine's Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office earlier on Wednesday announced an investigation into reports concerning 11 lawmakers from the Servant of the People party.

Zelenskiy, who has been on a visit to Japan since early this week, put out a statement on Wednesday urging all members of the Rada's finance committee to take the polygraph test to dispel the rumors or face the consequences.

"If this test reveals even the slightest possibility that any of the lawmakers took money for voting at

the committee, anti-corruption agencies will deal with these lawmakers," he said. "I'm not going to allow anyone inside the faction or outside to cast the shadow on the political movement that won a majority mandate from the Ukrainian people." David Arakhmiya, head of the Servant of the People faction at the Rada, told the Ukrainska Pravda website on Wednesday that almost all the members of the finance committee have already agreed to undergo the test. Zelenskiy, a political novice and Ukraine's



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy speaks during talks with journalists in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

arguably best-loved comedian, won the presidential election in April by a landslide on a promise to battle the country's endemic cor-

ruption and pushed for a snap parliamentary election shortly after that, arguing that the previous Rada was too corrupt. □

Lebanese troops struggle to open roads closed by protesters

By **BASSEM MROUE**
HASSAN AMMAR
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese troops moved in to open major roads in Beirut and other cities Wednesday, scuffling in some places with anti-government protesters who had blocked the streets for the past week, grinding the country to a halt.

The army vowed to protect the protesters, but said roads have to be opened so that people can get on with business.

The scuffles came as the anti-government rallies received major support from the country's Christian leaders who described the weeklong protests as "a historic and exceptional popular uprising" against corruption and mismanagement, and appealed to the government to meet the demands of the people.

Hundreds of thousands of people have flooded public squares across the country in the largest protests in over 15 years — a rare show of unity among Lebanon's often-divided public in their revolt against status-quo leaders who have ruled for three decades and brought the economy



Anti-government protesters scuffle with Lebanese army soldiers during a protest in the town of Jal el-Dib north of Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019.

to the brink of disaster. The nationwide demonstrations that began last week grew larger on Monday, after Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced a package of economic reforms the government hopes would help revive the struggling economy. The protesters have denounced Hariri's package as empty promises and are demanding the resignation of his Cabinet.

Schools, universities, banks and government institutions have been closed for the past week, as protesters blocked main roads and intersections. The closures have cut off the capital from the Bekaa region, leading to some shortages in foodstuffs and fruits and vegetables.

On Wednesday morning, troops moved in large numbers to open several major roads in the capi-

tal and other cities, facing off with protesters carrying red, white and green Lebanese flags. In some places, protesters refused to move away, leading to the scuffles. Thousands of soldiers deployed in Beirut and its suburbs, and in the southern cities of Sidon and Tyre to clear the roads. They were able to clear some and failed in other places. The two sides were keen to avoid friction and not

to clash. Some protesters were seen giving soldiers red roses, telling them their suffering is identical as they are both victims of corruption. Some soldiers were overcome by emotions and at least one broke down in tears.

The Lebanese army is one of few state institutions that enjoy wide support and respect among the public as it is seen as a unifying force in the deeply-divided country.

Beirut's northern suburb of Zouk Mosbeh witnessed scuffles between protesters and troops who managed to briefly open the main highway to the capital before it was blocked again. In nearby Jal el-Dib area, troops were also able to open part of the highway briefly before large numbers of people, including legislator Sami Gemayel, marched from nearby areas and closed it again.

The Lebanese army issued a statement later saying it is committed to protecting the protests as long as they are not closing roads. "We are opening the roads for your sake so that people get their needed medicine, food and gasoline," the army said. □

In Egypt, 8 dead after chaotic day of heavy rains, flooding

By **SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Heavy rains that pummeled the capital of Cairo and other parts of the country, causing massive traffic jams and flooding many key roads, left at least eight people dead, including four children, authorities said Wednesday. People captured images of Tuesday's downpours and flooding on their mobile phones, posting images on social media, including scenes of cars submerged by flood waters.

In one dramatic video, a man on a bulldozer pulls the lifeless body of a little girl out of the water in a flooded area in northern Sharqia Province as shouts and screams are heard in the background. Another video shows a policeman,



In this Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019 photo, vehicles stop in a traffic jam due to flood waters caused by heavy rains in Cairo, Egypt.

Associated Press

steps away from the presidential palace in Cairo's district of Heliopolis, wading into a flooded street to unclog a sewage drain. Authorities closed schools and universities in the greater Cairo area Wednesday

and companies saw only skeletal staff show up at work. Authorities said later that schools would reopen Thursday. Adel el-Ghadban, governor of the Mediterranean province of Port Said, said schools would be

closed across the province Thursday because of continued bad weather there. The mayhem raised questions about Cairo's ability to deal with such heavy rains as the city's infrastructure and sewage and drainage systems have suffered from years of poor maintenance.

People took to social media to criticize the government's lack of preparedness. Cairo, a city of some 20 million people, has been left for decades in neglect and decay, particularly its overcrowded neighborhoods.

Hashtags like "#Egypt is sinking" were trending on social media, attracting many videos and pictures of the most affected areas in Cairo and elsewhere. Five deaths occurred in

the Nile Delta provinces of Sharqia, Gharbia and Kafr el-Sheikh, according to the Interior Ministry. Three of the victims, including two children, were electrocuted. The other two victims died falling from the rooftops of their flooded homes.

Local authorities in northern Sinai also reported two deaths. Moataz Taher, head of the el-Hassana municipality, said in a statement that a 47-year-old farmer and his 13-year-old daughter died early Wednesday in the flooding. In the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, the heavy rain caused a three-story building to collapse Wednesday, killing a 7-year-old child and injuring her 19-year-old brother, according to the city's civil protection authority. □



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Putin aims to boost Moscow's clout with Russia-Africa summit

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed dozens of leaders of African nations Wednesday for the first-ever Russia-Africa summit, reflecting Moscow's new push to expand its clout on the continent and saying there is "enormous potential for growth."

As Putin and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi hosted the two-day summit attended by leaders of 43 of the continent's 54 countries, two Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers landed in South Africa in the first-ever visit to the continent to underline Moscow's bid for influence.

Russia's annual trade with African nations doubled in the last five years to exceed \$20 billion, Putin said, and expressed his wish that trade will double again "as a minimum" in the next four or five years.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, welcomes Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for the talks on the sideline of Russia-Africa summit in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019.

Russia has worked in recent years to expand its influence in Africa, taking advantage of the seemingly waning U.S. interest in the

continent under President Donald Trump's administration. Moscow has sought to revive relationships forged during the Cold War, when

it poured funds and weapons into Africa in rivalry with the U.S., and has worked to cultivate new ties such as relations with South Africa.

Russia has signed military cooperation agreements with at least 28 African countries, the majority in the past five years, and expanded arms sales to the region. It is already the continent's largest arms supplier.

Putin noted that Moscow has written off \$20 billion in debt — he did not say over what period — and provided aid to African nations. He said Russia is willing to help tap natural resources and offer its technologies to the continent, and he welcomed the recent creation of an African free trade zone.

Russia's geological survey agency signed agreements with South Sudan, Rwanda and Equatorial Guinea to search for carbon resources on their territories. And Russia's largest oil company, Rosneft, said it was preparing to explore Mozambique's offshore oil resources. □

Associated Press

Indian troops kill 3 senior Kashmiri militants

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN
Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Indian forces have killed a top militant commander and his two associates in a counterinsurgency operation in Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said Wednesday. Hamid Lehari and his associates were killed Tuesday evening in a gunfight that erupted after Indian security forces launched a counterinsurgency operation in southern Awantipora area, said Dilbagh Singh, chief of police in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Police say Lehari became the operations chief of Ansar Ghawzat-ul-Hind, an affiliate of the al-Qaida militant group, after Indian troops killed a top militant, Zakir

Musa, last year.

Singh said the group has been wiped out in Kashmir with Tuesday's killings. Indian forces suffered no casualties or injuries in the fighting, he said.

On Wednesday, thousands of people participated in three separate funerals for the killed militants in their native villages. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, but claimed by both in entirety. Rebels groups have been fighting in Kashmir since 1989. They have repeatedly rejected the presence of outside groups, including al-Qaida.

In mid-2017, an al-Qaida-linked propaganda network said Musa joined its affiliate group after he quit Kashmir's largest rebel group, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. □



Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh speaks during a press conference at police control room in Srinagar, Indian-controlled Kashmir, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Brazil Congress passes landmark overhaul of pension system

By MAURICIO SAVARESE
DAVID BILLER

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The Senate gave final congressional approval Tuesday to an overhaul of Brazil's pension system, capping years of stalled efforts to sway public opinion and rein in unsustainable government spending on retirement. The Senate voted 60-19 to adopt changes for civil servants and private-sector workers, handing President Jair Bolsonaro his first major legislative victory. He proposed the constitutional amendment in February and, after some watering down, Congress' lower house gave its approval in August.

The most meaningful change sets a minimum retirement age of 65 for men and 62 for women. That's up from averages of 56 and 53, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, a club of nations whose populations on average retire at about 66. The overhaul also introduces progressive brackets for contribution amounts as well as limits for survivor benefits and includes a period for transition to the new system.

The intent is to curb a swelling deficit in Brazil's "extremely generous" pension



The Senate holds a final vote on pension reform in Brasilia, Brazil, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

system, which accounts for some 40% of total federal spending, according to a note Tuesday from the research firm Capital Economics.

That load has grown along with life expectancy, and increasingly limits the government's ability to direct funds toward other areas. Brazil will save about \$190 billion over the next decade as a result of the overhaul, said Monica de Bolle, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

"It's good enough to put Brazil on a more sound fis-

cal path going forward into the medium term, and does address immediate population aging problems and so on," De Bolle said in a phone interview.

The reform means Daniel Aragão, a 38-year-old who works in human resources for the federal government in Rio de Janeiro, will have to labor an extra five years before he can retire. He accepts that sacrifice, despite what he perceives as some of the overhaul's shortcomings.

"I can understand that reform is needed, or else the system will soon collapse,"

Aragão said.

Such awareness has been constructed over the course of years and reflects a shift in public opinion. Of people surveyed in July by pollster Datafolha, 47% supported the proposal. A reform submitted by Bolsonaro's predecessor, Michel Temer, was less ambitious but got significantly less support. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva achieved only a partial reform after President Fernando Henrique Cardoso failed to make any changes.

The initial proposal of Bolsonaro's far-right administra-

tion was more aggressive and aimed at saving more than \$300 billion over 10 years. Congress removed some items, including a reduction of small benefits for elderly and disabled people with low incomes.

On the central artery of Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest city, 48-year-old Anibal Soares said he paid less attention to debate of the plan than he should have.

"I heard that after this reform I'll have to work six more years to get the same pension. Six more years paying social security, for what?" said Soares, a salesman of farm products. "I'm not saying there shouldn't be a reform, but I have the feeling it will be people like me paying for it."

The Senate scheduled a debate on final amendments to the main text of the reform for Wednesday. Tuesday's vote was a win for Bolsonaro after several defeats in Congress. His administration reportedly plans to submit a follow-up proposal with more controversial changes to the pension system and will include states and municipalities. The lower house is evaluating a separate bill that would modify pensions of the military and police.

Several senators who voted for the overhaul said more will be needed. □

Bolivia's Morales says coup underway as rivals dispute vote

By CARLOS VALDEZ

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivian President Evo Morales said Wednesday his opponents are trying to stage a coup against him as protests grow over a disputed election he claims he won outright, though a nearly finished vote count suggests it might head to a second round. The leftist leader needs a 10 percentage-point margin over his closest rival to avoid a December runoff in which he'd risk being defeated by a united opposition in his bid for a fourth consecutive term in office.

And the vote count Wednesday had him with a 9.48 percentage point



Bolivia's President Evo Morales speaks during a press conference at the presidential palace in La Paz, Bolivia, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

lead with just 3.22 percent of the votes from Sunday's election left to count. He led former President Carlos Mesa 46.49% to 37.01%.

Mesa has warned of fraud

and international vote monitors have expressed concern at an earlier unexplained daylong gap in reporting results before a sudden spurt in Morales'

vote percentage. Opposition backers have staged rowdy protests since the vote. Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president and the region's longest-ruling leader, repeated his claim that he won outright and said his opponents were conspiring to oust him.

"I want to denounce to the people and the world that a coup d'etat is underway," Morales said in a press conference in which he did not take any questions. "The right wing has prepared it with international support." Morales did not specify where the alleged international support for the coup is coming from, but he regularly rails against U.S. imperialism in Latin America.

He cited the burning by protesters of electoral offices in two cities where votes are being tallied as proof of the coup. "We are waiting for a report from the Electoral Tribunal, although the TREP (a quick count) has already said that we won," the president said. But the tribunal's quick count webpage, whose results are not binding, showed Morales with a 10.1 percentage point lead over Mesa with about 96 percent of polling place counts verified Wednesday. Opposition leaders, in turn, have called on Bolivians to defend "the citizen vote and democracy" in the streets against suspicions of fraud by Morales's party. □

LOCAL



Holiday Inn Resort Aruba celebrates: 50 shades of happiness



Chris Ayerli, Gene Bodenstein, Helen and Yuri Fisman



bike from one end to the other. I made friends here, they are my extended family." She will never go to another place than the Holiday Inn. "I have my ocean front room, I don't do laundry. I have my own driver and the staff that is my family." Her friend Helen Fishman is with her husband Yuri and father Gene Bodenstein from New York. "We are celebrating our 29th anniversary here and we spend 23 of them at the Holiday Inn. We come three times a year in May, October and Christmas. This is my happy place. They take care of my dad when he is alone here, they take all your worries away. I love this resort, it is paradise." Father Bodenstein proudly mentions that seven grandchildren grew up here and are still visiting. "Look, this celebration of 50 years is typical of how they the resort treats its guests, they put in all of it. We celebrate Aruba and Holiday Inn today."

PALM BEACH — October 22 in 1969 was exactly 50 years ago that the Holiday Inn Resort rooted in Aruba. It is the only resort on the island that kept its original brand for all those years. The resort threw a big feast for their guests and outside invites including live music, food buffets, bars, fireworks and a carnival show. Happiness, fun, appreciation and bonding were the key words that apply to the celebration. It felt like it was each guest's private anniversary.

When you celebrate your 50th birthday, some might see you as being "over the hill." In contrast, the Sarah tradition in the Netherlands (Aruba is part of the Dutch Kingdom) honors a woman gaining wisdom through experience. It is a milestone birthday that many look forward to. When it comes to resorts the experience counts thus we can easily state that Holiday Inn Resort is a very wise woman standing strong and dynamic. She is young at heart, wise in mind.

Welcome home mama

Jumping from the symbolic description above to tangible examples of female support we'd like to introduce to you Mrs. Chris Ayerli from Pennsylvania. "I have been coming to the Holiday Inn for 50 years. When they open the cab door they say: welcome home mama. I watched most of the staff grow up here. This resort is my private pool of valium." She loves the beaches, the ocean but for all the people. "When I visited the first time in 1967 this hotel was not even here. This part was only palm trees and Divi Divi trees visited by wild goats and iguanas. We used to

Shout- out to the invited

The Holiday Inn Resort's Oceanside terrace was packed Tuesday night and the resort is thankful with the joyful, happy, appreciative guests. The live music band **NBO** got the public dancing their heart out and the tremendous food buffets and bars tickled everyone's taste buds. Big surprise was the impressive fireworks above the ocean followed by a real Aruban carnival parade. For sure the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba celebrated with a bang!☑



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A Call to Make San Nicolas Aruba's Official Creative City

ORANJESTAD — It has been no secret that several Aruban governments, including the current one, have expressed their vision of diversifying Aruba's economy through the implementation of a creative industry. An economy driven by creative niche markets where artistic and cultural means are considered economic viable goods that could foster economic growth in a country. Even further, Aruba has considered naming the city of San Nicolas as the cultural capital of the island. However, it appears that the development of a creative industry in Aruba is left to sit on the benches, just eager to join the playing field and to be recognized by its potential. Due to the increased acknowledgement that the world, along with its economic, social and cultural structures was changing dramatically, creativity inevitably became a popular concept. This was primarily propelled in part by the information technology revolution, or also known as the 3rd industrial revolution. However, in order to cope with these changes, cities all over the world were required to re-assess their resources and potential, which resulted in a process of essential re-invention on all fronts.

Besides concepts like the creative industries, creative economy, orange economy, we have 'creative cities' that together form the UNESCO's creative cities network (UCCN). Cities that are members of the UCCN recognize the importance of sustainable and inclusive urban development, and therefore commit to enhancing the role of culture and creativity for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Aruba has committed herself to the implementation of the 17 SDGs. Recently, San Nicolas received recognition internationally for being a worth while city to visit due to its cultural and artistic essence. However, the work is merely complete at this point. Do you think that if Aruba would join the UCCN, this would help the island develop its creative industry? Let's break this down.

What are Creative Cities?

Early in the 1980s, the creative city is a concept developed by Australian David Yencken. Since then it has since become a global movement reflecting a new planning paradigm for cities, bringing new life and enhancing their original character. While generally cities are supposed to be efficient and fair, a creative city takes it a step further and aims to be one that is committed to fostering creativity among its people and to providing emotionally satisfying spaces and experiences for them. A good example mentioned by the UN is on a city named Pune from Maharashtra, India. This city is known as the city of creativity in the country because of its unique culture, variety of festivals, and education option from engineering to film making to design, theater, and play culture in the city. Wouldn't this be nice for San Nicolas?

UNESCO (2019) expresses that by joining the UCCN, "cities commit to sharing their best practices and developing partnerships involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society in order to: strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services; develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector; improve access to and participation in cultural life, in particular for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals; fully integrate culture and creativity into sustainable development plans". As laboratories of ideas and innovative practices, the UCCN offer cities such as San Nicolas to in a concrete way contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda through policy-making and grass-root projects promoting the participation of all stakeholders, including women, youth and vulnerable groups. The

Creative Cities' commitment testifies to their central role at the frontline of sustainable development for communities, keeping the human being central.

According to UNESCO (2019) the objectives of the Creative Cities Network are implemented both at the level of the member cities and at the international level, notably through the following areas of action: "sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices; pilot projects, partnerships and initiatives associating the public and private sectors, and civil society; professional and artistic exchange programs and networks; studies, research and evaluations on the experience of the Creative Cities; policies and measures for sustainable urban development; and communication and awareness raising activities".

Cultural resources of a country are embodied in its peoples' creativity, skills and talents. They are not only things like buildings, but also symbols, activities and the repertoire of local products in crafts, manufacturing and services, as we seem to think the creative sector is. In past columns I have explained what and how creative industries are framed. Urban cultural resources include the historical, industrial and artistic heritage of assets including architecture, urban landscapes or landmarks. This makes the creative industries so diverse and inclusive compared to other economies. They also include local and indigenous traditions of public life, festivals, rituals or stories as well as hobbies and enthusiasms, which pay tribute to a country's cultural heritage. Language, food and cooking, leisure activities, fashion are all part of a city's cultural resources, as are sub-cultures and intellectual traditions that can be used to express the specialness of a location. They include the range and quality of

skills in the performing and visual arts and the creative industries. Thus, an appreciation of culture and creativity in our society should shape the technicalities of national urban planning and development rather than being seen as a marginal 'add-on' to be considered after housing, transport and land-use have been dealt with. This focus draws attention to the versatility and seriousness of the creative industries and that it will require the correct mentality for it to flourish. Aruba has a nation urban planning committee called AREA (Aruba Re-Imagined Area) which has the goal of reviving the two city centers of the island: Oranjestad (Capitol City) and San Nicolas. However, by the looks of it, it seems to be developing in a stagnant pace. The fish doesn't rot from the tail to the head, but from the head to the tail. If those in charge, the decision makers of the country don't have a clue how to implement and develop Aruba's creative industries, we have a problem. It is not enough to only have a vision. It is also critical to have a plan attached to that vision. Luckily we can appreciate the successful turn out of the Island Festival hosted in San Nicolas, which invited tourists and locals every month to enjoy Aruba's culture and heritage. This is only one ounce of what the creative industry could offer our tourists and locals.

Creative Cities in the Caribbean

According to CEPAL (2012) "the Caribbean is searching for activities that could contribute to growth and development by: (a) Fostering sustainable production based on the use of the creative talent of its people; (b) Generating high quality jobs that maintain or advance the middle-income status of most Caribbean economies; (c) Relieving the balance of payments constraint by increasing the productivity and quality of exports" (p.19).

Continued on Page 15

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Continued from Page 14

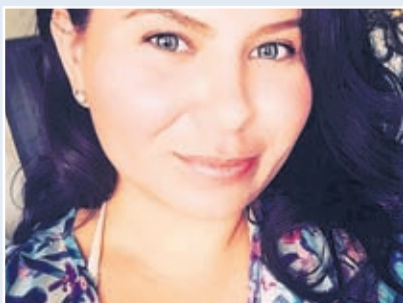
There are currently approximately 180 cities who members of the UCCN across the world. In the Caribbean there are only 3 countries that are committed to the creative industries as drivers of growth to their economies, which are Jamaica, Bahamas, and Haiti. Jamaica and the Bahamas are the creative industries leaders in the Caribbean and have been very successful in this internationally. If only Aruba could realize what they can achieve by committing themselves to this development.

Moving Forward

Half of the island doesn't even understand what a creative industry, cultural economy or orange economy is, and so moving forward one important aspect of this development is awareness within the community. In the creative city it is not only artists and those involved in the creative and cultural sectors who are creative, although they play an important role. Creativity can come from any source including anyone

who addresses issues in an inventive way be it a social worker, a businessperson, a scientist or public servant. Creativity is not only about having ideas, but also the capacity to implement them. This brings me to my second point: policy writing and implementation. A great weakness in my opinion is the degree of (lack of) proper policy making and implementation on the island. In order to be part of the UCCN, countries have to prepare adequate and relevant policy reports as their demonstration that they are going to be committed to the network and the development of creative industries around the world. Effective policy making is inevitable and will be crucial if not nonnegotiable if we want to keep pursuing the creative industries as a viable economic pillar for Aruba. Aruba and the relevant stakeholders such as the government, private sector and NGOs need to stop devaluing this sector by treating it like a sectorial dumping ground. Offering limited or ineffective resources, which weaken the cultural and creative sector of the island. To be a creative city the UCCN

expresses that soft and hard infrastructures are need. In their eyes soft infrastructure includes: a highly skilled and flexible labor force; dynamic thinkers, creators and implementers. Hard infrastructures include adequate spaces, buildings, protected monuments, creative arenas, creative incubators etc. If we keep feeding 'junk food' to this sector because of convenience and just simply because you don't want to make an effort in cooking healthy and wholesome meals it so desperately wants, we will not see the productivity and we will be very disappointed. Not because the creative sector can't deliver, but because of our own ignorance and negligence. Culture and creativity is at the Heart of the Sustainable Development. It is not too late for the island to pick up the pieces, but the willingness should be there to "in collaboration" reach the end goal: a thriving Aruban creative industry. Other countries have recognized this and have made tremendous steps going forward. When will Aruba? ☐



Biography – Currently, Thais Franken is a 24-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development" on July 6th 2018. Thais is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Spooky Good Times at Paseo Herencia



PALM BEACH — Paseo Herencia invites you this Sunday on October 27th for the annual Kids Halloween Trick or Treat event from 5pm – 8pm at the Plaza Padu located in the heart of Paseo Herencia. Celebrate with the kids and loved ones by trick or treating at our participating stores and restaurants in your favorite Halloween costume and compete for different costume prizes. Prizes will be given for the best costume, best Halloween character and best family group.

puccino soaked in terrifying ruby red strawberry sauce, creating the unmistakable mark of a Vampire's latest victim available from October 25th till Oct 31st.

To complete the night, watch one of the new Halloween movie releases such as "The Addams Family", "Maleficent" and "Zombieland" at the Caribbean Cinemas VIP located above the escalators. From October 25th till the 27th you will receive a FREE medium Pepsi with a purchase of a medium popcorn. If you are still on the island on October 30th, Caribbean Cinemas will be showcasing the Terminator 3 during their Horror at Midnight event.

Snap a picture at our Halloween photobooth, participate in different kids' activities and enjoy live shows on stage. Don't forget to take a spin in the Virtual Reality Room with scary games such as "Five Nights at Freddy's VR" or Epic Roller Coasters. Get yourself a spooky and delicious Halloween Frappula Frappuccino at Starbucks for limited time only. The Frappula Frappuccino blended beverage has a layer of eerie mocha sauce, topped with innocently sweet Vanilla Frap-

Paseo Herencia is open daily till 10'o clock in the evening. Come and enjoy all these activities with your friends and family for the Halloween season at Paseo Herencia. For more information about current events or activities visit the Paseo Herencia Facebook page or call us at +297 586 6533. □



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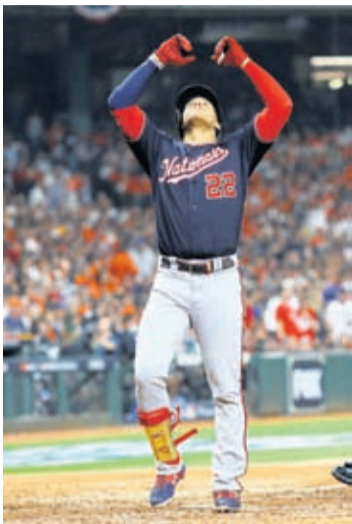
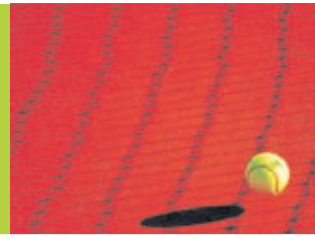
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SPORTS



Washington Nationals' Juan Soto celebrates in the dugout after his home run against the Houston Astros during the fourth inning of Game 1 of the baseball World Series Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, in Houston. Associated Press

Soto, Nationals top Cole, Astros 5-4 in opener

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Juan Soto and the Washington Nationals quickly derailed the Cole Express.

A 20-year-old prodigy with a passion for the big moment, Soto homered onto the train tracks high above the left field wall and hit a two-run double as the Nationals tagged Gerrit Cole and the Houston Astros 5-4 Tuesday night in the World Series opener.

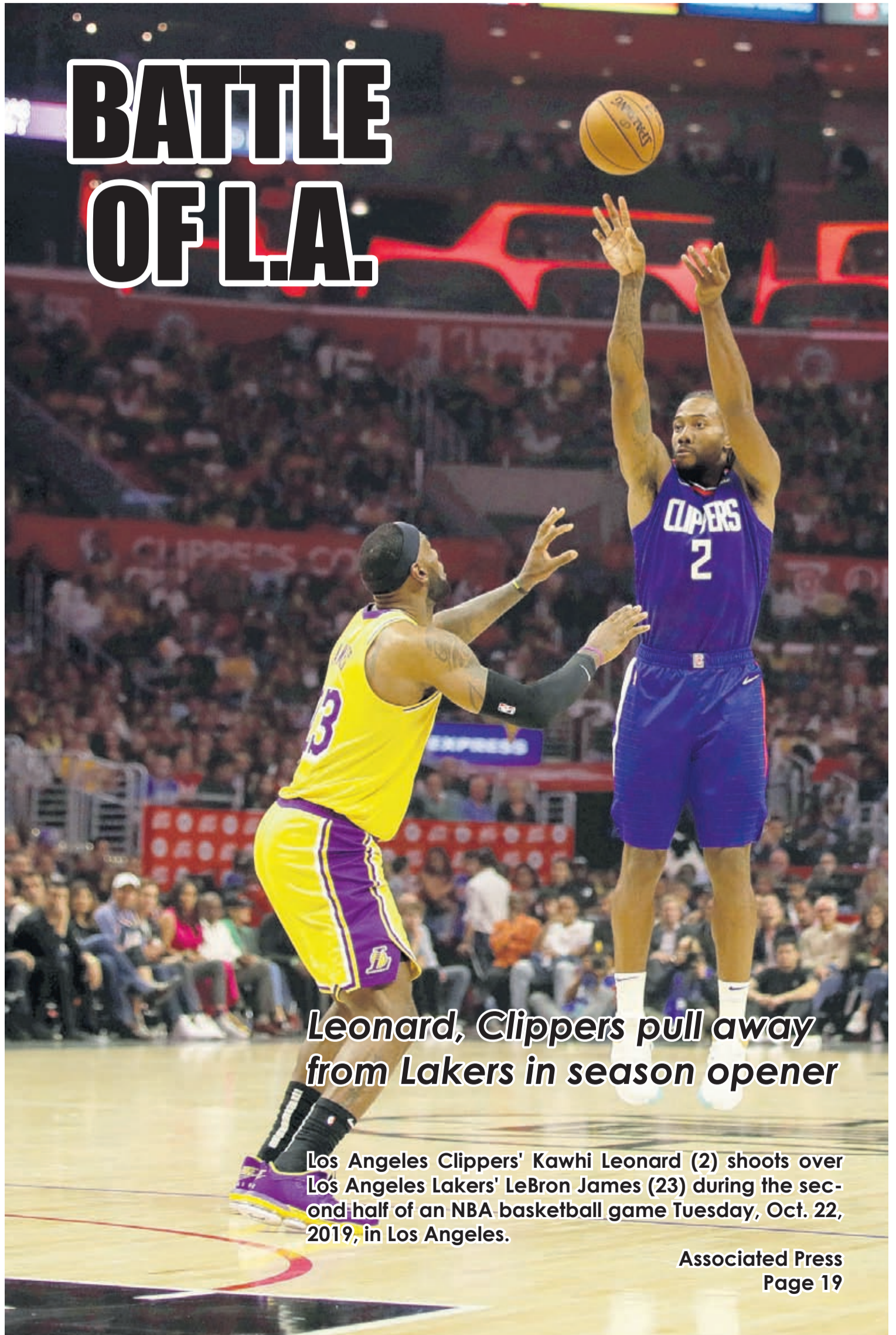
"After the first at-bat, I just said, 'It's another baseball game,'" Soto said.

"In the first at-bat, I'm not going to lie, I was a little bit shaking in my legs."

Not even a history-making home run by postseason star George Springer — and another shot that nearly tied it in the eighth inning — could deter Washington.

Continued on Page 22

BATTLE OF L.A.



Leonard, Clippers pull away from Lakers in season opener

Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard (2) shoots over Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press
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Federer eases past Albot into Swiss Indoors quarterfinals

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Roger Federer eased to a 6-0, 6-3 win over 49th-ranked Radu Albot in the second round of the Swiss Indoors on Wednesday.

The top-seeded Federer had to save two break points in the first set on his way to sweeping the first eight games of the match. Seeking a 10th title at his hometown event, Federer has spent less than two hours combined on court for his two match wins so far this week.

In Friday's quarterfinals, Federer will play fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka or Francis Tiafoe of the United States, who both had straight-set wins Wednesday.

Wawrinka beat Pablo Cuevas 6-3, 6-4, and Tiafoe won 6-4, 6-2 against Dan Evans. In a first-round match, sixth-seeded David Goffin won 6-4, 6-4 against unseeded Marin Cilic, the Basel champion in 2016 when Federer was injured. Goffin is currently 10th in the points race to qualify for the eight-man ATP Finals in



Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka cheers after winning his first round match against Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

London next month. Wild-card entry Alex de Minaur advanced to the quarterfinals by beating 31st-ranked American Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-3. The 28th-ranked Australian next plays Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany, ensuring at least one unseeded player will be in the semifinals. □

Salt Lake City to host 2023 NBA All-Star Game

JOHN COON
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Salt Lake City will host the 2023 NBA All-Star Game. Commissioner Adam Silver announced the selection Wednesday. The game will be played Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023 at Vivint Smart Home Arena. It will be the 30th anniversary of Utah's only other All-Star Game. Silver said Salt Lake City's track record of hosting major sporting events, such as the 2002 Winter Olympics, and recent arena upgrades swayed the NBA into selecting the city.

"Big-time sports and big-time events are part of the DNA of this city," Silver

said. Salt Lake City previously hosted the NBA All-Star Game at the Delta Center in 1993, when the Western Conference beat the Eastern Conference 135-132 in overtime. Utah Jazz Hall of Famers Karl Malone and John Stockton became the first teammates to share the All-Star MVP award. Malone led the West with 28 points, and Stockton finished with nine points and 15 assists. "It was an electric and thrilling experience and one that I will always remember," Jazz owner Gail Miller said. "Today, we are honored to welcome the NBA and the all-star game back to Salt Lake City." □



Tiger Woods of the United States watches his tee shot on the 10th hole during the pro-am event of the Zozo Championship PGA Tour at Accordia Golf Narashino C.C. in Inzai, east of Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Woods, Spieth, McIlroy lead star field in Japan

By **JIM ARMSTRONG**
AP Sports Writer

INZAI CITY, Japan (AP) — With a field that includes Tiger Woods, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy, the PGA Tour's first tournament in Japan has plenty of star power.

The Zozo Championship, which begins on Thursday, will be held at the Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Tokyo in Inzai City.

It is part of three tournaments that make up the PGA Tour's Asia Swing, including the CJ Cup in South Korea won last week by Justin Thomas and the HSBC Champions in Shanghai next week.

The Japanese tournament, co-sanctioned with the Japan Golf Tour, is a 78-man, no-cut field with a \$9.75 million purse.

The weather could prove to be a factor on the weekend.

Japan is bracing for two more storms heading its way a week after a typhoon devastated the country's central and northern regions. A forecast for another typhoon has been downgraded to a tropical storm.

Woods last played in an official tournament in Japan

in 2006 at the Dunlop Phoenix, where he lost in a playoff to Pdraig Harrington. He won the Dunlop Phoenix the two previous years.

"It's going to be a lot of fun to be back here in front of fans that really understand and respect the game of golf," Woods said in a pre-tournament interview.

"The game of golf is so strong here in Japan, and to have seen it grow like it has over 20-some odd years that I've been playing is very special."

The Masters champion is making his first start in his 23rd season on the PGA Tour, needing one victory to reach 82 wins and tie the career record held by Sam Snead.

Woods had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee two months ago — his fifth on the same problem spot.

He played in the inaugural "The Challenge: Japan Skins" game on Monday at the same course and did not appear to be in any discomfort.

Jason Day, who beat Woods in the Skins game, is also part of the field as well as Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama and Thomas, whose win in the CJ Cup was his 11th PGA Tour event and his second in South Korea.

After his win in South Korea, Thomas now has two more wins over the last three seasons in Asia than any other player on tour.

"There's something about Asia," Thomas said Wednesday.

"I seem to do pretty well over here. I don't really know what it is.

It's always a good time of year for me."

McIlroy, who is playing in Japan for the first time in 11 years, said he wasn't concerned about playing on an unfamiliar course.

"That's OK. I mean, I've won majors before by playing nine-hole practice rounds," McIlroy said.

"Sometimes when you don't know a course, that's a better thing. You don't know where the trouble is and it doesn't enter your mind."

There is an agreement in place to hold the Zozo Championship until at least 2025.

The tournament sponsor has drawn a great deal of attention in the relatively conservative Japanese business world.

Zozo chief executive Yusaku Maezawa, owner of the online Japanese retailer, is known for lavish spending on artworks, a Stradivarius violin and a future trip to the moon. □

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Leonard leads Clippers over LeBron and Lakers 112-102

By **BETH HARRIS**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kawhi Leonard hit seven straight shots in one stretch, creating a run for the Clippers that his new teammates quickly joined.

"It's a great sign of leadership," coach Doc Rivers said. "He talks with his game."

Leonard began a new career chapter Tuesday night, scoring 30 points to go with a strong bench effort in a 112-102 victory over LeBron James and the Lakers in the teams' season opener. Leonard chose the Clippers because he wanted to come home and his family was on hand.

"All those emotions went through me again," he said. Lou Williams added 21 points and Montrezl Harrell had 17 off the bench when the Clippers began their 50th season overall and 36th in Los Angeles as the once unlikely but now favorites to win the franchise's first NBA championship.

"It's one of 82 (games)," Rivers said. "Next question." Leonard won his second NBA title last season in Toronto.

The Lakers showed off their new 1-2 punch of James and Anthony Davis. Davis scored 25 points, making 9 of 14 free throws, and James had 18.

"For us, we're both aggressive," Davis said. "Sometimes we kind of miss each other. I missed him a couple times and he missed me, so just trying to figure it out."

Danny Green outscored them both with 28 points, including seven 3-pointers,

in the highest-scoring debut by a Laker in franchise history.

Leonard got it done without his personal recruit Paul George, sidelined indefinitely while rehabbing from a pair of offseason shoulder surgeries.

"It's just the first game of the season, so it's going to take the season and mistakes and success to get us on the same page," Leonard said.

Wearing a black tuxedo jacket and bow tie, George received a mixed reaction when introduced in the playoff-like atmosphere at Staples Center, where the Clippers were the home team for the first of four meetings in the arena the teams share.

"Their fans were very loud early and I thought our fans took over from that point on," Rivers said. "It's great for the city."

The Clippers' reserves outscored the Lakers' bench, 60-19. Last season, Williams and Harrell were the NBA's highest-scoring reserve duo, and they picked up where they left off.

"This bench is going to be better this year than even last year," Rivers said.

It came down to the fourth quarter, and the Clippers dominated.

Tied 85-all, they opened with a 19-7 run to go up 104-92. Five different players scored and Leonard assisted on Maurice Harkless' 3-pointer.

James had three of the Lakers' six turnovers in the fourth, when Harkless and Leonard each blocked shots by Dwight Howard.



Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis, top, dunks against the Los Angeles Clippers during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, in Los Angeles.

"That was just very careless and they capitalized off of it," James said.

With 4 ½ minutes left, Lakers fans chanted "Let's go, Lakers! Let's go, Lakers!" while others hit the exits.

"The NBA's back and everyone's trying to have the narrative of it's a rivalry game and it's a huge test," James said, "but I think both teams are not where they want to be. We have a lot of room to improve."

The Lakers erased a 14-point deficit in the third, led by Danny Green's 18 points. He capped a 15-0 run with his fifth 3-pointer before JaMychal Green's 3-pointer pulled the Clippers into an 85-all tie heading into the fourth.

The Clippers outscored the Lakers 40-29 in the second quarter, buoyed by 16 points from Leonard. He made seven straight shots on a variety of moves — pullups, fadeaways, a cutting dunk.

The Lakers raced to a 13-2 lead, their largest of the

game. James scored over Leonard and he later heard "MVP! MVP!" chants while sinking his first free throws of the season.

The Lakers shot 53% from the floor in the first quarter, while the Clippers missed shots and had a basket by Williams taken away when the Lakers challenged a foul call on Howard.

The rivalry was on early with a male fan shouting "Go Lakers!" during the national anthem, drawing big cheers while Clipper fans booed.

"It was everything I expected," Davis said. "Very anticipated game and it was fun."

TIP-INS

Lakers: They fell to 43-29 all-time in season openers. ... G Rajon Rondo (sore right calf) sat out.

Clippers: They improved to 25-25 in openers all-time, but still trail the Lakers 3-2 when the teams meet in a season opener. ... G Rodney McGruder (right ankle sprain) missed the game.

WARNING FANS

As part of the NBA's crack-down on fan behavior this season, cards carrying a message from league security were on seats located courtside and the first couple rows back. They reminded that every fan is required to comply with the league's fan code of conduct and anyone who acts inappropriately may be subject to ejection and-or revocation of their tickets. The public address announcer reminded fans before both halves about minding their manners.

LEONARD'S GREETING

Leonard took to the mic to welcome Clippers fans to the game. He had to raise his usually low voice to be heard over the din, a mix of cheers from Clippers fans and boos from Lakers fans. "It's going to be a great season," Leonard said. "We're going to play hard every night. Let's get it going."

STARRY NIGHT

Famous faces came out, including Kate Hudson, Angela Bassett, Jeff Garlin, and athletes Lisa Leslie and Diana Taurasi of the WNBA, Joc Pederson of the Dodgers and soccer player Alex Morgan. Halsey performed outdoors at LA Live before the game and Ty Dolla \$ign rapped at halftime.

UP NEXT

Lakers: Return to Staples Center as the home team Friday against Utah. The Lakers are 25-12 all-time against the Jazz at home. **Clippers:** Travel to Golden State on Thursday to open the Chase Center in San Francisco in another blockbuster matchup. □

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VanVleet scores career-high 34, Raptors top Pelicans 130-122

By IAN HARRISON
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The Toronto Raptors slipped on shiny new rings, unfurled a championship banner, then got their title defense started with a hard-fought victory. Fred VanVleet scored a career-high 34 points, Pascal Siakam fouled out with 34 points and 18 rebounds, and the defending champion Raptors beat the New Orleans Pelicans 130-122 in overtime on Tuesday night in the NBA's season-opening game.

"Pascal and Freddy, they are the young core, they are the guys who will carry this thing on," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "I'm so happy for those guys to go out and perform like tonight. We'll see them grow all year."

Lowry scored 22 points, including a pair of free throws that put Toronto in the lead for good, and Serge Ibaka had 13 as the



Toronto Raptors' Norman Powell, Serge Ibaka, Marc Gasol and Pascal Siakam, from left, stand with their rings behind the Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy before playing the New Orleans Pelicans in Toronto on Tuesday Oct. 22, 2019.

Raptors won their seventh straight season opener and posted their eighth win in nine meetings with the Pelicans.

"It's very fun to be in the position that we're in where we just won it but we're kind of on the climb again,"

VanVleet said. Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday tied it at 122 by making a pair of free throws with 2:23 left in overtime. Lowry answered with his foul shots, VanVleet hit a corner 3, and Lowry also connected from long range to cap a decisive 8-0

run. "They made a couple of big plays at the end that gave them separation," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "That was the difference in the game."

Brandon Ingram scored 22 points and Josh Hart had 15 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which began the season without No. 1 pick Zion Williamson. JJ Redick scored 16 points, Nicolò Melli had 14 and Holiday added 13.

The Pelicans made 19 turnovers, leading to 22 Toronto points. Twelve of New Orleans' turnovers came in the second half and overtime.

"We played hard, but we've also got to play smart," Gentry said. "We didn't play smart down the stretch there."

Lowry made a pair of free throws to tie it 117-all with 29 seconds left in regulation, and Toronto's Norman Powell grabbed the rebound on a missed shot by Holiday, giving the

Raptors one last shot with 8.9 seconds to go.

Powell got the ball, but his long 3-pointer hit the back of the rim and bounced out, sending it to overtime. Before the game, the Raptors received the biggest championship rings in NBA history and unfurled a banner celebrating their six-game triumph over Golden State last June.

"I have to start lifting more weights so I can carry it around," VanVleet joked.

The Raptors lost NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard to the Los Angeles Clippers in free agency, and also saw guard Danny Green leave for the Lakers. Before the game, Gentry said losing a star player doesn't always hurt a team's fortunes.

"Bryce Harper is gone, too, but where are the Nationals?" Gentry asked rhetorically about Washington's World Series baseball team. "I wouldn't count these guys out just yet." □

Eichel has 2 goals, 2 assists as Sabres beat Sharks in OT

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Jack Eichel capped a two-goal, two-assist game by scoring 3:13 into overtime to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 4-3 win over the San Jose Sharks on Tuesday night. The Eastern Conference-leading Sabres overcame a 2-0 first-period deficit and responded after San Jose's Erik Karlsson tied the game with 8:33 remaining in regulation.

Jeff Skinner and Sam Reinhart also scored for the Sabres, who improved to 8-1-1 and matched their second-best start to a season previously set twice. Carter Hutton stopped 25 shots and the Sabres completed a home-and-home sweep of the Sharks following a 4-3 win at San Jose on Saturday.

Marc-Edouard Vlasic and Dylan Gambrell also scored for the Sharks who at 3-5-1 matched their worst start since 2005-06. Martin Jones stopped 25 shots, and had little chance on Eichel's decisive goal.

BRUINS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 2

BOSTON (AP) — David Pastrnak scored his league-leading 10th goal and added an assist as Boston beat Toronto.

Brad Marchand also had a goal and an assist, and Brett Ritchie and Par Lindholm also scored for Boston, which was playing for the first time since a 4-3 loss in overtime at Toronto on Saturday night. Tuukka Rask made 28 saves in his 500th career game.

Kasperii Kapanen and Alexander Kerfoot had a goal and assist apiece for the Maple Leafs, who were coming off an overtime loss to Columbus at home on Monday night. Michael Hutchinson stopped 35 shots.

The Maple Leafs tied after falling behind 1-0 and 2-1, but couldn't get anything past Rask in the third period.

PANTHERS 4, PENGUINS 2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal and an assist to lift Florida past Pittsburgh.

Denis Malgin had a goal and an assist, and Noel Acciari, and Frank Vatrano

also scored goals for the Panthers. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 22 shots. Aleksander Barkov had a pair of assists.

Patric Hornqvist and Teddy Blueger scored for Pittsburgh. Matt Murray made 18 saves.

The Panthers have won two of their past three games. After winning five in a row, the Penguins lost their second straight game.

COYOTES 3, RANGERS 2, OT

NEW YORK (AP) — Christian Dvorak scored 1:04 into overtime to lift Arizona to its fourth straight victory.

Lawson Crouse and Alex Goligoski also scored for the Coyotes. Darcy Kuemper made 17 saves while holding opponents to two or fewer goals for the 13th straight start.

Tony DeAngelo scored twice and Alexandar Georgiev stopped 32 shots as the Rangers lost their fifth straight (0-4-1).

On the winner, Dvorak got a pass from Goligoski and beat Georgiev with a high shot for his fourth of the season.

PREDATORS 6, DUCKS 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Roman Josi and Viktor Arvidsson each had a goal and an assist to lead Nashville.

Colton Sissons, Rocco Grimaldi, Mattias Ekholm and Calle Jarnkrok also scored as the Predators snapped a two-game losing streak. Pekka Rinne made 26 saves to earn the victory.

Ryan Getzlaf had the lone goal for Anaheim, losers of two straight. John Gibson started and gave up four goals on 19 shots through two periods before being replaced by Ryan Miller, who finished with nine saves.

CANUCKS 5, RED WINGS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Bo Horvat scored three of Vancouver's five goals in the third period for his first career hat trick, and the Canucks rallied from two down to beat skidding Detroit.

Jake Virtanen got the game-winner and Tim Schaller also scored for Vancouver, which has won six of seven. Elias Pettersson

and defenseman Quinn Hughes had two assists apiece. Jacob Markstrom

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2, BLACK-HAWKS 1, SO

CHICAGO (AP) — Marc-An-

— Anze Kopitar scored a power-play goal in the third period and Los Angeles



Buffalo Sabres forward Jack Eichel celebrates his goal during the second period of the team's NHL hockey game against the San Jose Sharks, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

stopped 31 shots.

Anthony Mantha and defenseman Dennis Cholowski scored for Detroit, which lost its fifth in a row. Jimmy Howard made 35 saves.

WILD 3, OILERS 0

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Eric Staal broke out of an early slump with two goals and an assist, and Minnesota beat 0Edmonton.

Brad Hunt also scored for the Wild, who may be without goaltender Devan Dubnyk for a while. Dubnyk was upended early in the second period after Minnesota's Ryan Donato fell to the ice while battling the Oilers' Brandon Manning. Dubnyk tried to leap over both sliding players, but fell hard on his backside and appeared to hit the back of his head on the ice.

Playing his 300th game with the Wild, Dubnyk was checked by a trainer before exiting after making nine saves.

Alex Stalock came on and finished with 16 saves.

Edmonton is 2-2-1 in its past five games after opening the season with five straight wins.

The Oilers, shut out at Winnipeg on Sunday, have gone 152:38 without goal.

dre Fleury made 31 saves through overtime and two more stops in the shootout, leading Vegas past Chicago.

Fleury was beaten by Jonathan Toews in the first round of the tiebreaker, and then turned away attempts by Patrick Kane and Alex DeBrincat.

Jonathan Marchessault and Shea Theodore beat Robin Lehner on the other end, giving Vegas the victory after it lost 6-2 at Philadelphia on Monday night. It was win No. 446 for Fleury, snapping a tie with Terry Sawchuck for seventh on the NHL career list. The Golden Knights also improved to 7-0-0 against the Blackhawks since entering the league for the 2017-18 season.

Kirby Dach scored his first goal in his second NHL game for Chicago, and Lehner had 33 saves in an impressive performance. Dach was selected by the Blackhawks with the No. 3 overall pick in this year's draft.

Nick Holden then tied it at 1 when he shot it between Lehner's legs with 1:33 left.

KINGS 3, JETS 2

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)

beat Winnipeg.

Austin Wagner and Kurtis MacDermid also scored for the Kings, who won their second straight game after losing the previous three. Jonathan Quick, who got an assist on Kopitar's fourth goal of the season, stopped 26 shots.

Kyle Connor and Nikolaj Ehlers scored, and Connor Hellebuyck made 38 saves for the Jets, who lost four of five on a homestand.

The teams were tied 1-1 after the first period and 2-2 following the second.

CAPITALS 5, FLAMES 3

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Washington defenseman John Carlson scored twice to help the Capitals win their fourth straight.

Alex Ovechkin had a goal and an assist and Tom Wilson also scored for Washington.

Chandler Stephenson got credit for an own goal by the Flames. Braden Holtby had 32 saves.

Carlson leads the NHL with 20 points (five goals, 15 assists).

Elias Lindholm, Tobias Rieder and Austin Czarnik scored for the Flames. Cam Talbot stopped 25 shots in his second straight start. □

World Series

Continued from Page 17

Ryan Zimmerman, still full of sock at 35, also homered to back a resourceful Max Scherzer and boost the wild-card Nationals in their first World Series appearance — tres bien for a franchise that began as the Montreal Expos in 1969.

"They waited a long time," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said.

Otherworldly almost all season, Cole looked downright ordinary. Trea Turner singled on the second pitch of the game and the Nationals were off and running, ending Cole's 19-game winning streak that stretched back 25 starts to May.

"I didn't have my A-game tonight," Cole said.

Not what Cole or anyone else at Minute Maid Park expected, especially after he led the majors in strikeouts, topped the AL in ERA and finished second in the big leagues in wins to teammate Justin Verlander.

Cole had breezed through the AL playoffs, too.

Yet it was a further testament to an eternal truth about baseball: It doesn't matter what you do the whole season if you don't get it done in October.

"I think he's been so good for so long that there builds this thought of invincibility and that it's impossible to beat him," Astros manager AJ Hinch said. "So when it happens it is a surprise to all of us because we've watched for months this guy completely dominate the opposition."

Soto finished with three hits and a stolen base. Three days shy of his 21st birthday, the wunderkind left fielder also snared Michael Brantley's late try for a tying hit. Relentless at the plate, he's already become one of those rare players — like Springer — who seems to turn pressure into production.

How's he do it? Better launch angle? Improved swing path?

Uh, not really.

"Sometimes I just put gum in my mouth," Soto said. "But most of the time, just take a deep breath and focus. It's just the pitcher and me."

"Everybody around, I forget about everybody around. It's just you and me," he said, adding, "try to enjoy it." The MVP when Houston won its first crown in 2017, Springer set a record by connecting in his fifth straight Series game to make it 5-3 in the seventh. But reliever Daniel Hudson threw a fastball past rookie Yordan Álvarez with the bases loaded to end the inning. In the eighth, Springer put a charge into a drive to deep right-center, and it appeared as though he might've hit a tying, two-run homer. Springer took a couple of hops out of the batter's box to watch, and had to settle for an RBI double when the ball glanced off the glove of a leaping Adam Eaton at the fence.

Heavily favored at the start, the 107-win Astros will try to get even Wednesday night when Verlander faces Stephen Strasburg in another



Houston Astros' George Springer reacts after hitting an RBI double during the eighth inning of Game 1 of the baseball World Series against the Washington Nationals Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, in Houston.

matchup of aces.

Scherzer slipped in and out of trouble for five innings. But every time the stadium got rollicking, he found a way to get out of jams. There's a reason ol' Max has won three Cy Young Awards.

"We got old and young guys," Scherzer said.

Projected Game 4 starter Patrick Corbin threw a scoreless sixth for the Nationals. Springer connected off Tanner Rainey for his 14th career postseason home run before Hudson fanned Álvarez on three pitches.

Hudson retired José Altuve, and Sean Doolittle got Brantley on a lineout to strand Springer at second in the eighth. Doolittle then closed for a save to give the Nationals their seventh straight victory and 17th in 19 games dating to their

September playoff run.

Leading the way was Soto, whose eighth-inning hit in the wild-card win over Milwaukee sent the Nationals on their path.

"He's got kind of the 'it' factor," Hinch said. "He's got the twitch. He's got fast hands. He's got no fear." Soto looked overmatched when he fanned on Cole's 99 mph heater in the first inning. Turned out Soto was just getting warmed up.

He justified his place in the 4-spot, launching a leadoff drive in the fourth to make it 2-all. He became the fourth-youngest player to homer in the Series, behind Andruw Jones, Miguel Cabrera and Mickey Mantle. The ball was later retrieved from the train tracks and donated by Soto for a long ride to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Washington took the lead

in the fifth. Eaton hit a tie-breaking single and Soto doubled with two outs for a 5-2 advantage.

After the game, Soto agreed to donate his home run ball to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Zimmerman hit the first World Series homer in Nationals history, connecting in the second. He was the first player drafted by the team for the 2005 season.

"It's been a long ride," Zimmerman said.

Cole left after the seventh, getting a pat from Hinch in the dugout. Watching from the front row behind the plate was someone who also knows a lot about pitching — Astros executive, Texas great and Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, the Ryan Express himself.

Yuli Gurriel put Houston ahead with a two-run double in the first. □

Associated Press

MLB to speak with Astros over which makes Taubman decision

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Major League Baseball will speak with the Astros to determine whether the commissioner's office or the club will handle any decision following an investigation into the conduct of Houston assistant general manager Brandon Taubman.

Commissioner Rob Manfred said before World Series Game 2 on Wednesday that MLB investigators

were at work in their probe. "I think that there will be a conversation with the club at the end of the investigation and as is often the case, we'll make a decision working with the club as to how who should handle it, as opposed to exactly what the outcome is," Manfred said. "At the end of the day, he is an Astros employee."

Taubman has apologized for using language that was "unprofessional and in-

appropriate" in the Houston clubhouse following the Astros' pennant-winning victory over the New York Yankees last weekend. Sports Illustrated reported he repeatedly yelled toward a group of female reporters about closer Roberto Osuna, who was suspended for 75 games last year for violating MLB's domestic violence policy before being traded from Toronto to the Astros.

Taubman shouted "Thank

God we got Osuna!" according to SI, which said he made similar remarks several times, punctuating them with a profanity.

"You want to make sure you get all the facts," he said. "You want to be as thorough as you possibly can, understand the whole situation. But once you get there, you want to get it behind you."

Manfred said what occurred in the clubhouse was of more concern to him

than the Astros' response, which was initially to call the SI report "misleading and completely irresponsible." The team said SI had tried to "fabricate a story where one does not exist" and maintained Taubman's comments weren't directed at reporters.

"I'm really concerned at this point about the underlying substance of the situation and what the atmosphere was, how it came to be," Manfred said. □

MLS top coach Bradley leads LAFC's daily quest for greatness

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bob Bradley rocks in his chair under the sizzling Southern California sun and gives an exaggerated New Jersey shoulder shrug. The Los Angeles FC coach can use his entire body to make a point, and he's emphasizing what's actually important about individual accolades, such as being named Major League Soccer's Coach of the Year for the third time.

"Individual awards are recognition of the team," Bradley said, naming LAFC general manager John Thorington and "everybody else I get a chance to work with every day."

"I think we've created a good environment," he added. "I think we challenge each other every day. The most important part is you create an environment where people enjoy what they're doing. Everybody feels part of it. Players know when they show up every day that there's been a lot of thought that goes into what we do, and the culture that we're trying to build. For me, it's only recognition of all that."

To Bradley, this sport is not about awards. It's only partly about championships, even when LAFC is about to start a potential three-game run at its first MLS Cup title with the biggest game in franchise history on Thursday night against



In this March 4, 2018, file photo Los Angeles head coach Bob Bradley walks across the pitch before an MLS soccer match against the Seattle Sounders in Seattle.

the LA Galaxy.

Instead, it's about building a team that vigorously pursues excellence, never reaching perfection and never stopping. With Bradley telling the story, the mundane day-to-day work of professional soccer is an epic quest that probably won't be completed, but should always be embraced.

"Look, trophies become part of that, but it's about football," Bradley said. "It's something the fans can see. Every time you step on the field, there's something real there. There's something different there. There's something that if you watch, you want to come back and see again."

Bradley has been trying to build that ideal team for the past 25 years, ever since his decade in charge of the Princeton men's soccer program propelled him around the world on a coaching odyssey including stops in MLS and with national teams in the U.S. and Egypt, followed by professional sides in Norway, France and Britain. His latest stop has arguably brought him closer to perfection than ever before. A lifetime of coaching knowledge has combined with LAFC's eager ownership, smart player selection, a beautiful stadium and an already robust fan culture to create something spectacular in record time.

Bradley will be honored with the Sigi Schmid Coach of the Year Award on Wednesday after guiding a 2-year-old franchise to the best regular season in league history. LAFC (21-4-9) reached the MLS records for points (72), goals (85) and goal differential (plus-48) while dazzling the continent with an aggressive, cohesive brand of soccer. Less than three years after the first American coach in Premiership history was fired by Swansea after just 11 games, he sits atop MLS with one of the best teams ever assembled. Bradley rejects any notion of I-told-you-so satisfaction after his abrupt dismissal at the Welsh club in December

2016, although he is clearly confident he could have succeeded with more time to implement his ideas.

"They're so far in the rear-view mirror," Bradley said of all his past stops. "Every day brings you that new challenge. You enjoy that part, you feel good about it, and I believe in the way I do things. I love to engage the people around me to bring something out of them, and hopefully in doing that, they can bring more out of me."

Deep into his second year in charge at LAFC, his players have grown accustomed to Bradley's style. The same coach who designed the sophisticated offense that allowed Carlos Vela to score an MLS-record 34 goals also nags his players to clean up after themselves when they eat at the LAFC training complex, believing that sloppiness at the lunch table can translate into imprecision on the field.

"It's not the bigger picture with him," defender Steven Beitashour said. "It's so minuscule. It's the smallest little details. ... It all correlates to the game. It's all about just trying to improve, and not showing up just to be here. There's so many individuals that I'm not going to mention that improved so much, that I would never have thought could be at the level they are, unless they were under his system. He sees everything." □

Pozuelo scores twice, Toronto advances to conference final

NEW YORK (AP) — Alejandro Pozuelo converted a penalty kick in the 90th minute for his second goal of the game and Toronto FC beat top-seeded New York City FC 2-1 on Wednesday night in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Playing without striker Jozy Altidore (quad) and defender Omar Gonzalez (hamstring), Toronto advanced to face the winner of Philadelphia-Atlanta game Thursday night on Oct. 30 for a spot in the MLS Cup.

It's Toronto's third Eastern Conference final in the last four seasons.

Pozuelo scored in the 47th by intercepting an ill-advised header to the goalkeeper and sliding it inside the post.

On the winner, he sent Sean Johnson diving the wrong way with a chip shot down the middle.

Ismael Tajouri-Shradi tied it in the 69th, sending home Maximiliano Moralez's cross at the back post.

The game was played at Citi Field, home of the New York Mets, because of the Yankees' playoff run. □



New York City FC's goalkeeper Sean Johnson stops a shot on the goal during the first half of an MLS Eastern Conference semifinal soccer match against Toronto FC on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

Google touts quantum computing milestone

By **RACHEL LERMAN** and **MATT O'BRIEN**

AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google said it has achieved a breakthrough in quantum computing research, saying an experimental quantum processor has completed a calculation in just a few minutes that would take a traditional supercomputer thousands of years.

The findings, published Wednesday in the scientific journal *Nature*, show that "quantum speedup is achievable in a real-world system and is not precluded by any hidden physical laws," the researchers wrote.

Quantum computing is a nascent and somewhat bewildering technology for vastly sped-up information processing. Quantum computers are still a long way from having a practical application but might one day revolutionize tasks that would take existing computers years, including the hunt for new drugs and optimizing city and transportation planning.

The technique relies on quantum bits, or qubits, which can register data values of zero and one — the language of modern computing — simultaneously. Big tech companies including Google, Microsoft, IBM and Intel are avidly pursuing the technology. "Quantum things can be in multiple places at the same time," said Chris Monroe, a University of Maryland physicist who is also the founder of quantum startup IonQ.



This Friday, June 16, 2017, file photo shows the Google logo at a gadgets show in Paris.

"The rules are very simple, they're just confounding." Google's findings, however, are already facing pushback from other industry researchers. A version of Google's paper leaked online last month and researchers caught a glimpse before it was taken down. IBM quickly took issue with Google's claim that it had achieved "quantum supremacy," a term that refers to a point when a quantum computer can perform a calculation that a traditional computer can't complete within its lifetime. Google's paper shows that its quantum processor, Sycamore, finished a calculation in three minutes and 20 seconds — and that it would take the world's fastest supercomputer 10,000 years to do the same thing. Google calculation is a

random sampling problem similar to dice roll or gambling machine to find outputs from a huge set of combinations of different numbers.

But IBM researchers say that Google underestimated the conventional supercomputer, called Summit, and said it could actually do the calculation in 2.5 days. Summit was developed by IBM and is located at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Google dismissed IBM's claims, asserting in a statement Wednesday that it performed its tests on an "actual supercomputer" and is now on a "totally different trajectory" from classical computers. The company said Sycamore demonstrates that it is now "performing on real hardware a computation that's

prohibitively hard for even the world's fastest supercomputer, with more double exponential growth to come."

Whether or not Google has achieved "quantum supremacy" or not may matter to competitors, but the semantics could be less important for the field of quantum research. What it does seem to indicate is that the field is maturing.

"The quantum supremacy milestone allegedly achieved by Google is a pivotal step in the quest for practical quantum computers," John Preskill, a Caltech professor who originally coined the "quantum supremacy" term, wrote in a column after the paper was leaked.

It means quantum computing research can enter a new stage, he wrote,

though a significant effect on society "may still be decades away."

The calculation employed by Google has little practical use, Preskill wrote, other than to test how well the processor works. Monroe echoed that concern.

"The more interesting milestone will be a useful application," he said.

The promise of such future applications in commerce and national security has attracted interest from governments including the United States and China that are increasingly investing in the expensive basic research needed to make quantum computers useful. One feared outcome of quantum computing — though experts say it could be decades away — is a computer powerful enough to break today's best cryptography.

President Donald Trump last year signed into law a congressional proposal to spend \$1.2 billion over five years for quantum research across the federal government.

Google's research was centered at a University of California, Santa Barbara laboratory but relied in part on a Department of Energy supercomputer and experts at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to verify the work.

Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and adviser, on Wednesday called Google's breakthrough a "remarkable scientific achievement" that will help usher in future U.S. industries. □

Eager to leave scandal, Nissan shows off smooth-driving tech

By **YURI KAGEYAMA**

AP Business Writer

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP) —

An electric car with smooth four-wheel drive and a virtual friend for the coming age of automated driving are among the technology in development from Nissan.

The Japanese automaker, eager to leave behind the scandal over its former star executive Carlos Ghosn,

recently invited reporters to see several of its test models. Ghosn, who led Nissan for two decades, was arrested last year and now awaits trial in Tokyo on financial misconduct charges. The newly developed "all-wheel-control" technology of Nissan's electric vehicle delivers a sense of greater control, driver confidence and real safety, according to Nissan,

which demonstrated how the model zipped sharply on turns and skidded less on wet surfaces, showing super-quick responses.

It also minimizes shaking in stop-and-go situations because it more smoothly balances the force usually accompanying such moves to those riding in the vehicle. The electric four-wheel drive also promises more exhilarating driving. □



In this Oct. 18, 2019, photo, people wearing various gadgetry remote control the virtual figures that appear in a car as Nissan demonstrated such technology that is working on at its Oppama test driving course in Yokosuka, near Tokyo.

Associated Press

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\$750,000.00



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 2Bed/2Bath Ocean front Penthouse condo w/ jacuzzi & private roof top patio

US stocks tick closer to records after mixed profit reports

By **STAN CHOE**
 Associated Press

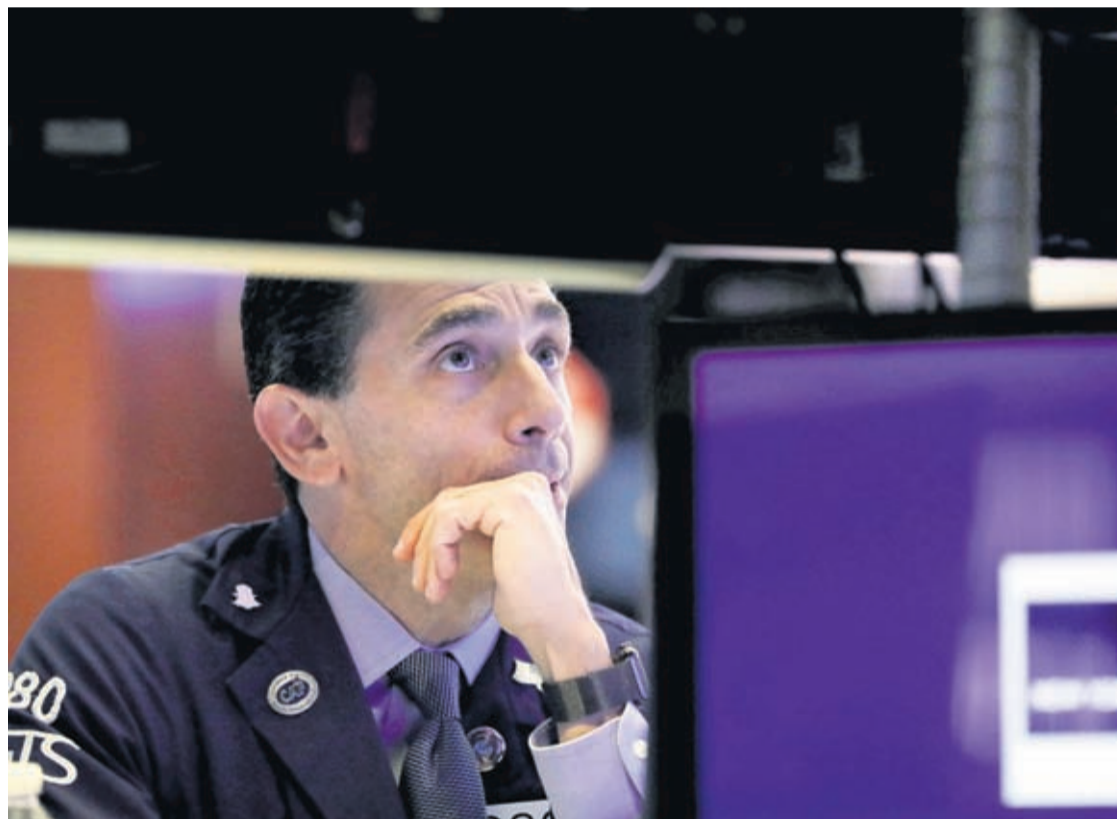
NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stock indexes ticked closer to their records following a mixed set of earnings reports Wednesday, where some big companies topped Wall Street's expectations and others warned that the slowing global economy and trade tensions are hitting their profits. The S&P 500 flipped between small gains and losses in early trading, much like it has been the past couple weeks. It's within about 1% of its record, set in July.

Overseas stock markets were mixed as the United Kingdom's pending exit from the European Union appeared set for yet another delay.

Treasury yields fell and continued their nearly yearlong decline.

Health care stocks helped lead U.S. indexes higher, powered in part by Thermo Fisher Scientific, which reported stronger-than-expected profits and raised its forecast for full-year revenue and profit. Medical device company Boston Scientific also jumped to one of the biggest gains in the S&P 500 after reporting a bigger profit than expected.

Boeing climbed 2.6% after it said its 737 Max airplane may return to service by the end of the year and that it will gradually increase 737 production by late 2020. That helped make up for



In this Oct. 2, 2019, file photo specialist Peter Mazza works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

its weaker-than-expected profit for the latest quarter. On the losing end was Texas Instruments, which said its customers have become far more cautious than they were even 90 days ago, with trade tensions a big factor.

It reported stronger profits for the latest quarter than analysts expected, but its forecast for this quarter fell short of their estimates. It lost 6.5%.

Caterpillar, another company whose fortunes are seen on Wall Street as closely tied to President Donald Trump's trade wars, dipped 0.5% after reporting weaker-than-expected

profit for the latest quarter. Eli Lilly also dragged on the market despite reporting stronger profit than Wall Street expected. Analysts pointed to weakness in a couple key medications for the drugmaker, and its stock lost 3.5%.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 was up 5 points, or 0.2%, at 3,001 as of 11:42 a.m. Earlier in the morning, it had been down 0.2%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 69 points, or 0.3%, to 26,857, and the Nasdaq composite added 0.2%.

EARNINGS: Roughly a quarter of companies in the S&P 500 have reported how

much profit they made from July through September, and analysts are still forecasting the index will end up showing a drop in earnings per share from a year earlier.

If they're right, it would be the first time earnings have dropped for three straight quarters since 2015-16, according to FactSet.

The weakest results are expected to come from companies that are reliant on the strength of the global economy, which has been slowing amid trade wars. Raw-material producers, technology companies and energy stocks are predicted to report drops of

10% or more, according to FactSet.

But analysts are forecasting stronger growth for communications companies and businesses that sell to consumers, which have been the strongest part of the economy.

OVERSEAS: In Europe, Germany's DAX rose 0.3% while France's CAC 40 was virtually flat. London's FTSE 100 rose 0.7% after British lawmakers approved a deal for the country to leave the European Union, but rejected fast-tracking it through parliament, raising the prospect of another delay to the Oct. 31 Brexit date.

The president of the European Council, Donald Tusk, said he would recommend the other 27 nations in the trade bloc grant Britain's request for an extension to the deadline.

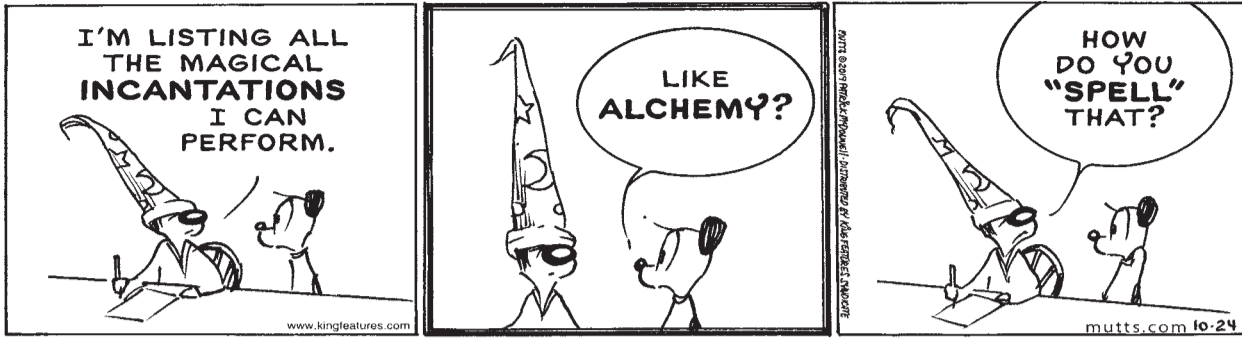
The date could be pushed back to the end of January but the country could also face a general election in that time, raising some new uncertainties around the whole process.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.3%, the Kospi in South Korea fell 0.4% and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost 0.8%.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 70 cents to \$55.18 per barrel. Brent crude, the international benchmark, climbed 60 cents to \$60.30 per barrel.

YIELDS: The yield on the 10-year Treasury dipped to 1.75% from 1.76% late Tuesday. □

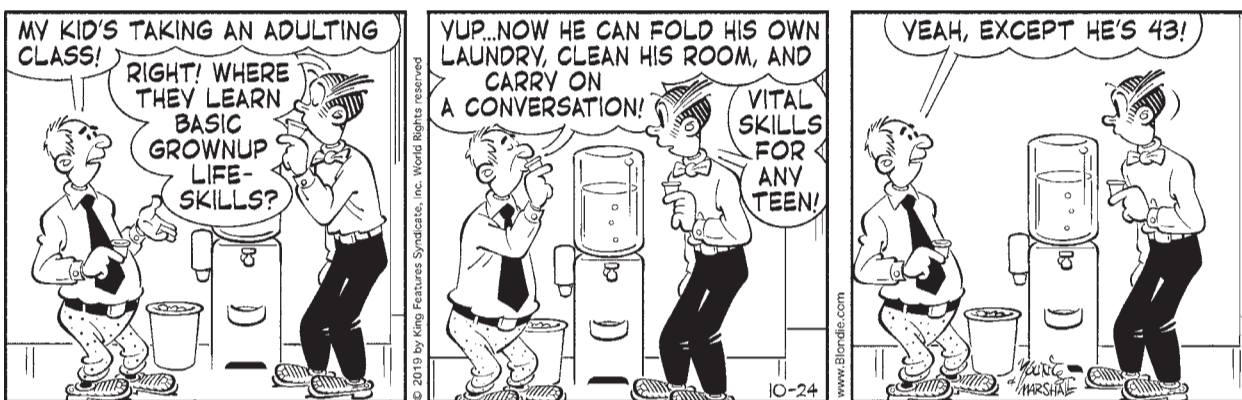
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	7	5		9	3			
8				7		1		
	4				8			
6			8					3
1			6			8		
	5				1			
7		4				9		
4	9			5	2	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

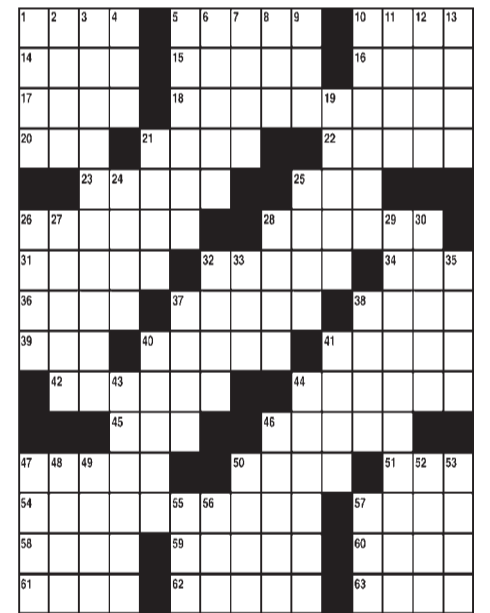
5	1	4	2	7	6	8	9	3
2	9	6	3	5	8	1	7	4
7	3	8	9	1	4	2	5	6
1	4	7	6	3	5	9	2	8
9	6	3	8	2	1	5	4	7
8	2	5	7	4	9	6	3	1
3	8	2	5	6	7	4	1	9
4	7	9	1	8	2	3	6	5
6	5	1	4	9	3	7	8	2

ACROSS

- 1 Twirl
- 5 iPad maker
- 10 Take a ___ at; attempt
- 14 Wild feline
- 15 Fleeting
- 16 Freddie the Freeloader, e.g.
- 17 Military force
- 18 Vehicle for the adventuresome
- 20 Oolong or pekoe
- 21 Cast a ballot
- 22 Ascended
- 23 "Be ___ or be square"
- 25 Current calendar page; abbr.
- 26 Ted Danson sitcom
- 28 Shakespeare's "Julius ___"
- 31 Name for a Stooge
- 32 Screwballs
- 34 Police officer
- 36 Zealous
- 37 Water sources
- 38 Skin mark
- 39 ___ flip-flop; change one's opinion
- 40 Great Plains Indian's abode
- 41 Twenty
- 42 Red wine
- 44 Bumbling
- 45 Get ___ of; discard
- 46 Vise
- 47 21st-century U.S. president
- 50 Injure
- 51 ___ the ball; bowl clumsily
- 54 Enteeble
- 57 Urgent
- 58 Valley
- 59 Claw
- 60 ___ a test; passed easily
- 61 Seeks damages from
- 62 Exhausted
- 63 Ryan & Tilly

DOWN

- 1 Quarrel
- 2 Unswilled
- 3 Irrelevant
- 4 Certain vote
- 5 Hates
- 6 Babble
- 7 Yearn
- 8 Piece of chicken
- 9 File drawer, perhaps
- 10 Articles of clothing
- 11 ___ list; paper full of chores
- 12 Lincoln & others
- 13 Monotonous speaker
- 19 Shoestrings
- 21 Part of VIP
- 24 Group of cattle
- 25 Tall trees
- 26 Not naked
- 27 Chaos
- 28 Composer ___ Porter
- 29 Co-conspirator
- 30 Lion's cries
- 32 Held on to
- 33 Vaudevillian
- Olsen
- 35 Hunted animal
- 37 Dandelion, for one
- 38 Bathtub ring
- 40 Courtroom event
- 41 Close noisily
- 43 Fighting forces
- 44 Customer
- 46 "___ a Hot Tin Roof"
- 47 Likelihood
- 48 Boyfriend
- 49 Isn't ___ to; can't
- 50 Guy
- 52 Neighbor of Calif.
- 53 Cots & cribs
- 55 "Don't judge a book by ___ cover"
- 56 Touch lightly
- 57 Water barrier



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 10/24/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

J	O	H	N	U	T	A	H	S	L	I	M
E	T	O	N	S	P	A	N	E	M	I	N
S	T	O	W	E	S	I	D	E	K	I	C
T	O	T	V	I	E	D	E	T	E	S	T
E	R	E	C	T	L	I	E				
C	A	N	A	R	E	S	E	T	S	U	P
A	W	A	R	E	A	W	A	S	H	N	A
S	A	N	E	R	U	I	N	S	S	I	L
S	I	N	M	I	N	T	S	R	A	V	E
T	Y	R	A	N	T	B	A	K	E	R	Y
A	U	G	W	A	V	E	R				
S	H	R	I	L	L	O	N	E	S	I	R
C	O	U	N	S	E	L	O	R	N	A	I
A	B	L	E	T	O	N	S	S	A	T	A
T	O	E	D	S	P	A	T	S	Y	N	E

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European lawmakers vote to strengthen bee protection

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
Associated Press
BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Parliament on Wednesday blocked a diluted proposal by the 28-nation bloc's executive arm on protecting bees from pesticides, arguing it didn't go far enough. European lawmakers adopted a resolution urging the European Commission to "table new legislation based on the latest scientific and technical knowledge." They said the Commission weakened its initial proposal due to the opposition of

16 member states which did not want provisions in the draft on how pesticides should be tested to protect bees from chronic exposure. The Commission's draft, they said, "remains silent on chronic toxicity to honeybees, as well as on toxicity to bumble bees and solitary bees." In their resolution adopted by 533 votes to 67 with 100 abstentions, they noted that the Commission's text "would not change the level of protection" already in place and asked the Commission to come up with new proposals. □

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3rd floor pool/ ocean view

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2 BR Ocean View \$7000
2 BR Ocean Side \$8500
2 BR Ocean Front \$14,000
3 BR Ocean View \$12,500
Divi Links Golf \$5000
1 BR wk 40 building 10
2nd floor 33 weeks remain

La Cabana Beach and Casino
1 BR and studio WK # 41
Ground floor Sunday check in
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This Dec. 11, 2006 file photo shows a silicone gel breast implant in Irving, Texas. On Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said that breast implant manufacturers should add a boxed warning — the most serious type — to information used to market and prepare patients for implants.

Associated Press

FDA wants stronger warning on breast implants about risks

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials want women getting breast implants to receive stronger warnings and more details about the possible risks and complications.

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that manufacturers should add a warning highlighted by a box — the most serious type — to the information given to women considering implants.

The agency is also recommending patients complete a checklist to make sure they understand all the possible side effects of the implants, such as scarring, pain, rupture and even a rare form of cancer.

"We have heard from many women that they are not fully informed of the risks when considering breast implants," the agency said in a statement detailing the recommendations.

The agency also wants companies to explain that breast implants often require repeat surgeries and they should not be con-

sidered lifelong devices. About 1 in 5 women who get implants for cosmetic reasons need to have them removed within 8 to 10 years, according to the FDA. The agency will take public comment on the proposed guidelines before adopting them.

The new proposal is the FDA's latest attempt to manage safety issues with the devices primarily used for breast augmentation, the most frequently performed cosmetic surgical procedure in the U.S. Roughly 400,000 women get implants each year; 100,000 after cancer surgery. In recent years, the FDA and regulators elsewhere have grappled with a link between a rare cancer and a type of textured implant. In July, the FDA called on manufacturer Allergan to pull its Biocell implant after it was tied to heightened risk of a form of lymphoma. The company issued a worldwide recall for the implants, which had already been restricted or removed from numerous countries. □



This image provided by Swedish Match in 2019 shows the company's "General Snus" pouched smokeless tobacco product.

Associated Press

U.S. endorses tobacco pouches as less risky than cigarettes

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, U.S. health regulators have judged a type of smokeless tobacco to be less harmful than cigarettes, a decision that could open the door to other less risky options for smokers. The milestone announcement on Tuesday makes Swedish Match tobacco pouches the first so-called reduced-risk tobacco product ever sanctioned by the Food and Drug Administration.

FDA regulators stressed that their decision does not mean the pouches are safe, just less harmful, and that all tobacco products pose risks. The pouches will still bear mandatory government warnings that they can cause mouth cancer, gum disease and tooth loss. But the company will be able to advertise its tobacco pouches as posing a lower risk of lung cancer, bronchitis, heart disease and other diseases than cigarettes. The pouches of ground tobacco, called snus — Swedish for snuff and pronounced "snoose" — have been popular in Scandinavian countries for decades but are a tiny part of the U.S. tobacco market. Users stick the teabag-like pouches between their cheek and gum to absorb nicotine. Unlike regu-

lar chewing tobacco, the liquid from snus is generally swallowed, rather than spit out. Chewing tobacco is fermented; snus goes through a steamed pasteurization process.

FDA acting commissioner Ned Sharpless said the agency based its decision on long-term, population-level data showing lower levels of lung cancer, emphysema and other smoking-related disease with the use of snus.

Sharpless added that the agency will closely monitor Swedish Match's marketing efforts to ensure they target adult tobacco users.

"Anyone who does not currently use tobacco products, especially youth, should refrain from doing so," he said in a statement. Stockholm-based Swedish Match sells its snus under the brand name, General, in mint, wintergreen and other flavors. They compete against pouches from rivals Altria and R.J. Reynolds. But pouches account for just 5% of the \$9.1 billion-dollar U.S. market for chew and other smokeless tobacco products, according to Euromonitor market research firm.

And public health experts questioned whether U.S. smokers would be willing to switch to the niche product. "Snus products have a bit of a challenge" among

smokers who are used to inhaling their nicotine, said Vaughan Rees, director of Harvard University's Center for Global Tobacco Control.

The U.S. smoking rate has fallen to an all-time low of 14% of adults, or roughly 34 million Americans. But smoking remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the U.S., responsible for some 480,000 deaths annually.

The FDA's decision has been closely watched by both public health experts and tobacco companies.

Public health experts have long hoped that alternatives like the pouches could benefit Americans who are unable or unwilling to quit cigarettes and other traditional tobacco products. Tobacco companies are looking for new products to sell as they face declining cigarette demand due to tax increases, health concerns, smoking bans and social stigma.

The FDA itself also has much at stake in the review of snus and similar tobacco alternatives.

Congress gave the FDA the power to regulate key aspects of the tobacco industry in 2009, including designating new tobacco products as "modified risk," compared with traditional cigarettes, chew and other products. □

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Governors Awards honoree Geena Davis on advocacy and equity

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Geena Davis got a message on a Saturday morning that the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences needed to speak to her urgently, she thought "I hope I'm not in trouble."

It was quite the opposite. The call was to inform Davis that she had been selected to receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at this year's Governors Awards for starting the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. On Sunday, she'll join the ranks of past honorees like Audrey Hepburn, Gregory Peck and Oprah Winfrey at the 11th installment of the awards. Honorary Oscars will also be given to David Lynch, Wes Studi and Lina Wertmüller.

Unlike her fellow honorees, however, Davis, 63, has actually won an Academy Award - for her supporting performance in "The Accidental Tourist." Although it's now 30 years ago, she remembers that day vividly. It was her first Oscars and she was pretty nervous. She'd gotten made up and put on her evening gown very early in the day. As she waited, she thought: I should have a snack.

"So, I got a plate of spaghetti. I covered myself up



This Jan. 23, 2017 file photo shows actress Geena Davis posing for a portrait to promote the film, "Marjorie Prime" during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

with towels and sat down and I put on the TV," she said. "The Oprah Show" was on and a few movie critics were talking about who would win that night. As luck would have it, they were just about to start talking about her category.

"I thought: Oh, this will be interesting," Davis said. "One by one, they're talking about the nominees and saying various nice things about everybody. And then they get to me last

and as they go down the line, each reviewer says in one way or another, absolutely zero chance."

One said she was too pretty for the role. Another said she was too ugly. And Davis just sat there, in her towel-covered gown, mouth open and a fork full of spaghetti in hand. As if she wasn't nervous enough already. "I thought, well, ok. I mean, I'm all dressed. I might as well still go. But it was incredibly sobering,"

she said. "It took a little bit of a shine off of going at first." Mercifully, she didn't have to wait that much longer. Her category was first up at the ceremony and she won out over Sigourney Weaver and Joan Cusack ("Working Girl"), Frances McDormand ("Mississippi Burning") and Michelle Pfeiffer ("Dangerous Liaisons"). The award Sunday, however, is not for acting, but for her work as an advocate for gender equality, which

Associated Press

began informally after she realized the effect that "Thelma & Louise" had on people.

"It dramatically changed my life," Davis said. "The reaction to it made me realize that we give women so few opportunities to feel empowered and inspired by the female characters. That's when I decided that from then on, I was going to make choices with women in the audience in mind."

It led her to "A League of Their Own," which not only bolstered her own self-esteem in learning to play a sport but seemed to have an effect on young girls who would tell her that they played sports because of her.

The ultimate push, however, came when she started watching kids' television and movies with her then-toddler daughter and realized "profound gender inequality" started there and, she theorized, was inadvertently teaching children to have unconscious bias. She started informal conversations with executives in the industry, pointing out what she had noticed.

"I would say, 'Have you ever noticed how few female characters are in movies and TV made for kids?'" Davis said. "And every single person said, 'Oh, no, that's not true anymore. That's been fixed.'" □

Ginsburg to receive \$1 million Berggruen Prize

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the winner of this year's \$1 million Berggruen Prize for philosophy and culture.

The award announced Wednesday by the Los Angeles-based Berggruen Institute honors Ginsburg for her pioneering legal work for gender equality and her support for the rule of law. The institute says Ginsburg will direct the money to charity.

The 86-year-old Ginsburg has been on the Supreme Court since 1993.

She is the court's oldest jus-

tice, but maintains an active public speaking schedule that took her to the San Francisco Bay Area earlier this week. Ginsburg has been treated for cancer twice in the past 10 months. Before joining the high court, she served 13 years as a federal appeals court judge in Washington, D.C. Ginsburg spent the early part of her career as a professor at the Rutgers University law school in New Jersey and at Columbia University law school. She started the American Civil Liberties Union's Women's Rights Project in the 1970s. The Berggruen Prize was established in 2016 by philan-

thropist Nicolas Berggruen to honor those who have "profoundly shaped human self-understanding and advancement."

Berggruen said in an interview that Ginsburg played a leading role in gender equality.

"She has done a lot to protect and further civil liberties. She has done a lot for women. That's especially important in these times," he said.

Ginsburg will receive the award on Dec. 16 at a ceremony at the New York Public Library.

When she received a different foundation's \$100,000 award in 1996, Ginsburg di-



In this Oct. 3, 2019 photo, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg claps after listening to students sing opera at Amherst College in Amherst, Mass.

Associated Press

rected the money to more than a dozen schools, performing arts groups and

civil rights organizations, according to her financial disclosure report. □

'Terminator: Dark Fate' is no triumphant comeback

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

Who will save the "Terminator" franchise from itself? Not "Deadpool" director Tim Miller, producer James Cameron or even Linda Hamilton, it turns out. Yes, despite an A-list roster of talent, including people behind the scenes who theoretically should know how to resurrect this brand and move it forward, "Terminator: Dark Fate" is just

another bad "Terminator" movie in a string of bad "Terminator" movies (although better than "Genisys"). And yet like the cyborg invention behind all of this, they keep coming and are really hard to kill. This time it really seemed promising with Cameron back on board for the first time in almost 30 years. This film was going to erase all the confusing timelines set by all the sequels that fol-



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Terminator: Dark Fate."

Associated Press

lowed and just pick up where "T2" left off. It was also to be centered on a group of women, including Hamilton, Mackenzie Davis as an augmented soldier named Grace and Natalia Reyes as Dani, the innocent being hunted. Simple, right? Not when there are three screenwriters and five people with "story by" credits involved. Like many of the semi-sequel, semi-reboot films populating the multiplexes, "Terminator: Dark Fate" is at least partially a rehash of the original, with a Terminator (Gabriel Luna) emerging naked from thin air (and the future of course) to kill an unsuspecting young woman. This time said young woman is Dani Ramos, a nice-seeming

but dreadfully underwritten auto factory worker who lives in Mexico with her dad and brother and takes quite some time to grasp the life-and-death situation she's in. Thankfully she's got a protector in Grace, an augmented super soldier, also from the future, who is part human, part Terminator and has been sent to make sure Dani stays alive for reasons we won't learn until much later. "The Terminator's" original damsel-turned-warrior Sarah Connor joins their ranks too and it gives me no pleasure to report that it's not an enjoyable comeback. Poor Hamilton — who looks as fierce as ever and was rightfully excited to get a chance to bring

Sarah Connor back not as an ingenue but a woman in her 60s who has lived a life — has been reduced to a lousy one-note caricature imagined by a group of men. She simply grows her awful one-liners like "I hunt Terminators and I drink till I black out. Enough of a resume for you?" Is this team of all-male screenwriters to blame? Perhaps. This film is a perfect representation of something that thinks it is being feminist simply because the camera is pointed at three women most of the time. But really, Dani is not much more than a plot device and Sarah is a reductive stereotype of an embittered woman. Even Grace, who thanks to Davis rises above the rotten script unscathed, has coded "female" limitations — she's powerful, sure, but she has emotional and physical weaknesses too. Arnold Schwarzenegger adds a dash of life and much-needed comedy when he makes his late-movie entrance. Without giving too much away, the original Terminator has been leading a surprisingly normal life for the past few decades and it's a rare delight in "Dark Fate." □

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Queen Latifah receives Harvard black culture award



Music artist and actress Queen Latifah receives the W.E.B. DuBois Medal for her contributions to black history and culture from Glenn H. Hutchins during ceremonies at Harvard University, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Music artist and actress Queen Latifah was among the honorees recognized

by Harvard University for their contributions to black history and culture. Harvard awarded the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal to

Queen Latifah and six other recipients on Tuesday, according to the Cambridge, Massachusetts, school's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. Other honorees include poet and educator Elizabeth Alexander, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Lonnie Bunch III, poet Rita Dove, co-founder of Black Entertainment Television Sheila Johnson, artist Kerry James Marshall and Robert Smith, founder, chairman and chief executive of Vista Equity Partners. The award is named after Du Bois, a scholar, writer, editor, and civil rights pioneer who became the first black student to earn a doctorate from Harvard in 1895. □

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

New Stritch bio reveals vulnerability behind the moxy

By **BROOKE LEFFERTS**
Associated Press

"Still Here: The Madcap, Nervy, Singular Life of Elaine Stritch," Farrar, Straus and Giroux, by Alexandra Jacobs

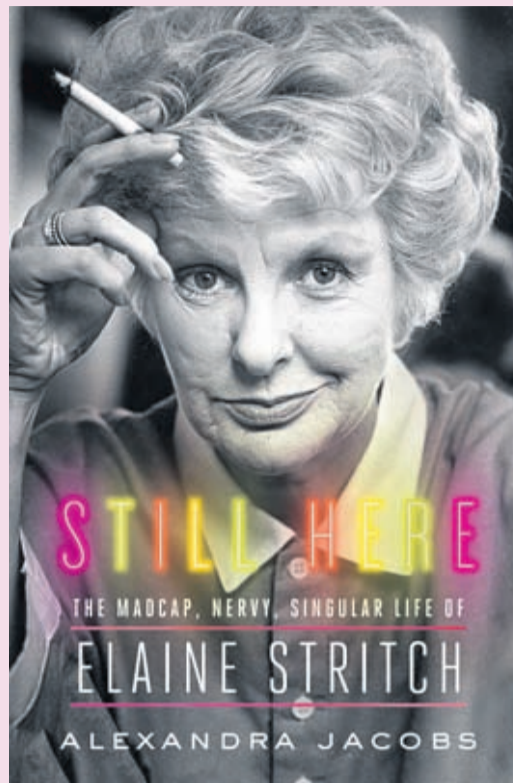
As the curtain rises in a new biography of Elaine Stritch, the scene is the actress' New York memorial service, attended by some of the biggest names in the theater world, with eulogies by Tony-winning actor Nathan Lane and famed producer Hal Prince, both throwing out zingers for laughs and to honor the woman who made so many lines shine. As "Still Here: The Madcap, Nervy, Singular Life of Elaine Stritch" suggests, the grande dame of Broadway brought life to scores of characters for decades, but she was a complicated, often dramatic character herself.

The book — written by New York Times feature editor Alexandra Jacobs — is a mini-history of the Great White Way from the 1970s through Stritch's death in 2014, told through the icon's professional and personal journey. Stritch auditioned for some of the most famous roles in Broadway history. She won some and lost many, and Jacobs tries to explain why despite solid talent and remarkable stage presence, Stritch seemed to get in her own way, sabotaging her chances at the success she coveted. "To the end she was both restless and routinized, selfish and generous, straightforward and elliptical," Jacobs writes. "She insisted on being seen and heard, felt and dealt with."

The story follows Stritch's life from the early days with her conservative well-to-do family in the Detroit suburbs to her move to New York with dreams of stardom. Manhattan was her playground, but Jacobs follows Stritch through jaunts in Los Angeles, London and on the road with various shows, meeting many famous people along the way.

Stella Adler and Lee Strasberg were teachers at her drama school, where Marlon Brando was a fellow student who once read her passages of "Wuthering Heights" on a date. Some of the best anecdotes are Stritch's encounters with desirable men like the young Congressman John F. Kennedy, Frank Sinatra and Rock Hudson. Because of her "luminous personality, she tended to collect people who wanted to adore her," Jacobs explains.

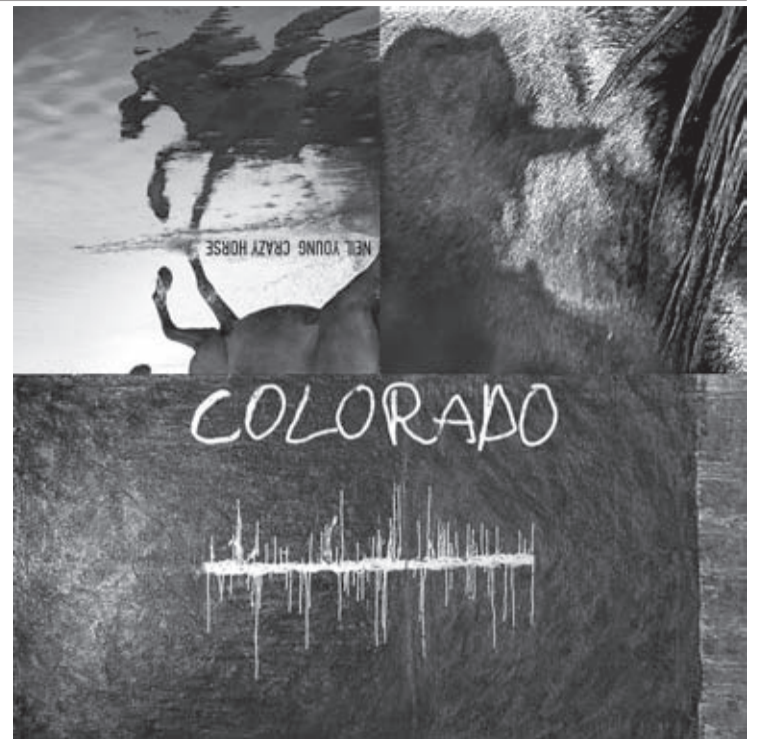
As she honed her craft, she worked with some of the greats including Harry Belafonte, Bea Arthur, Burt Lancaster, Mickey Rooney, and Jackie Gleason, who fired her from "The Honeymooners" after a day because she had too big a personality to share scenes with him. But the life of an actress is full of rejection and heartache and Stritch endured plenty of both, struggling through periods of unemployment, taking small jobs



This cover image released by Farrar, Straus and Giroux shows "Still Here: The Madcap, Nervy, Singular Life of Elaine Stritch" by Alexandra Jacobs.

Associated Press

to pay the rent and looking for love. Jacobs says Stritch was "incapable of not telling the truth," which was refreshing to some and too much for others. Her acerbic wit and lack of boundaries got her in trouble with both love interests and bosses. The author suggests alcoholism also kept Stritch from reaching her full star potential. She drank often and in large quantities for decades before she got sober in the late 1980s, but her relationship with booze continued — if sporadically and quietly — for many more years. Stritch was labeled unreliable for being late and forgetting lines, and could be arrogant, self-centered and overbearing with colleagues. She liked the finer things: car services, posh hotels and designer clothing, but didn't like to pay for them. She lost several jobs over greedy business negotiations for perks, and even had bouts of kleptomania. The tone is respectful with spots of humor and compassion. With more than 25 pages of bibliographical notes, it's clear Jacobs has done meticulous research. She includes quotes and stories from articles, interviews and even some from a memoir Stritch started but never finished. But some of the details and tangents about minor players feel unnecessary and disrupt the narrative. One poignant revelation is when theater critic John Lahr — who helped Stritch develop and produce her famous one-woman show "At Liberty" — suggests the reason for much of Stritch's bad behavior was fear and panic. "The truth of Elaine was her real great acting was convincing the world she was loosey goosey — that was a complete act," Lahr told Jacobs. □



This cover image released by Reprise Records shows "Colorado," a new release by Neil Young with Crazy Horse.

Associated Press

Neil Young back in his ragged glory with 'Colorado'

By **SCOTT BAUER**
Associated Press

Neil Young with Crazy Horse, "Colorado" (Reprise)
Neil Young is back with his old band Crazy Horse in all their ragged glory with "Colorado," a beautiful, rambling, chaotic howl against climate change, division and hate. It's one of Young's best record in years, reminiscent of 1989's triumphant "Ragged Glory," and his first with Crazy Horse since 2012.

Young, an old man showing no signs of slowing down at 73, cranks up both his rage and tenderness as only he can with the latest incarnation of Crazy Horse behind him. The band members have spent 50 years recording on and off with Young. The latest version features longtime Bruce Springsteen guitarist Nils Lofgren, who replaces retired 70-year-old Frank "Poncho" Sampedro.

But just like Young, Crazy Horse seems to defy the passing of time with the energy and emotion they bring to "Colorado." That passion is on full display on "Mountaintop," a companion documentary that captured the recording session high in the Rockies as Young and Crazy Horse suck on oxygen and work out the new songs.

The sweetly melodic three-minute opening track "Think of Me" could easily fit on Young's 1992 "Harvest Moon." But in a sharp left turn, Young follows it up with a shambolic 13-minute jam — "She Showed Me Love" — with echoes of earlier Crazy Horse adventures like 1969's "Down by the River."

As he has for much of the past decade, Young focuses his rage on climate change, railing about "old white guys trying to kill Mother Nature."

On the standout "Rainbow of Colors," Young offers some hope amid the despair. "There's a rainbow of colors/In the old USA," Young croons. "No one's gonna whitewash those colors away."

Young's never one to whitewash anything, as he proves magnificently once again on "Colorado." □

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Iconic Palestinian robe fashions a new political symbol

By ISABEL DEBRE
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The traditional brightly embroidered dress of Palestinian women known as the "thobe" was not the type of garment one would expect to become a pop political symbol. Now it's gaining prominence as a softer expression of Palestinian nationalism, competing even with the classic keffiyeh — the headscarf donned by young stone-throwing Palestinian men protesting Israel's occupation.

The robe, adorned with elaborate hand-stitched embroidery, requires months of grueling labor. Some thobes fetch thousands of dollars. The traditional textiles call to mind a bygone era of Palestinian peasant women sewing on a break from the fields.

Last month, Rashida Tlaib proudly wore her mother's thobe to her historic swearing-in as the first female Palestinian American member of Congress, inspiring masses of women around the world, especially in the Palestinian territories, to tweet photos of themselves in their ancestral robes.

"The historic thobe conjures an ideal of pure and untouched Palestine, before the occupation," said Rachel Dedman, curator of a recent exhibit at the Palestinian Museum focused on the evolution of Palestinian embroidery. "It's more explicitly tied to history and heritage than politics. That's what makes it a brilliant symbol."

The Palestinian thobe traces its history to the early 19th century, when embroidery was confined to the



In this Feb. 7, 2019 file photo, a woman views traditional Palestinian thobes during the exhibition "Women in Orient" at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris, France.

villages.

Richly decorated dresses marked milestones in women's lives: onset of puberty, marriage, motherhood. The designs varied from village to village — special three-dimensional stitching for the upper class of Bethlehem, big pockets for the nomadic Bedouin women, orange branch motifs for the orchard-famous city of Jaffa, said Maha Saca, director of the Palestinian Heritage Center in Bethlehem. Thobe patterns also expressed women's different social positions: red for brides, blue for widows, blue with multi-colored stitches for widows considering remarriage.

While Arab women across the region have worn hand-made dresses for centuries, the thobe has taken on a distinctly Palestinian character, particularly since the establishment of Israel in 1948. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians either fled or were expelled from their homes during the war surrounding Israel's creation. Many took only their dresses with them into the

diaspora, Saca added.

The war, which Palestinians call their "nakba," or catastrophe, transformed the thobe.

"Suddenly, in the face of dispossession and cultural appropriation by Israelis, embroidery became an urgent task," Dedman said. "The dress was taken up and politicized."

Over decades of conflict that has claimed thousands of lives on both sides, Palestinian nationalism has taken on many forms.

In the early days of Israel's establishment, it was associated with calls for Israel's destruction and deadly attacks. Armed struggle later gave way to calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — lands captured by Israel in 1967. Peace talks have been interrupted by spasms of violence, and for the past decade, a deep freeze in negotiations.

Today, the internationally recognized autonomy government of the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the West Bank, continues to seek a two-state solution with Israel. The Hamas militant group, which seized the Gaza Strip in 2007, still seeks Israel's destruction, while many Palestinians, particularly the younger generation, now talk of a single binational state with Israel in which they would enjoy full equal rights.

Along the way, the thobe has grown in popularity and evolved, with dress designs reflecting history's

many dramas. During the first Palestinian intifada, or uprising, in the 1980s, the thobe bloomed with guns, doves and flowers. When Israeli soldiers confiscated Palestinian flags at protests, women wove forbidden national maps and colors into their dresses, according to the Palestinian museum exhibit.

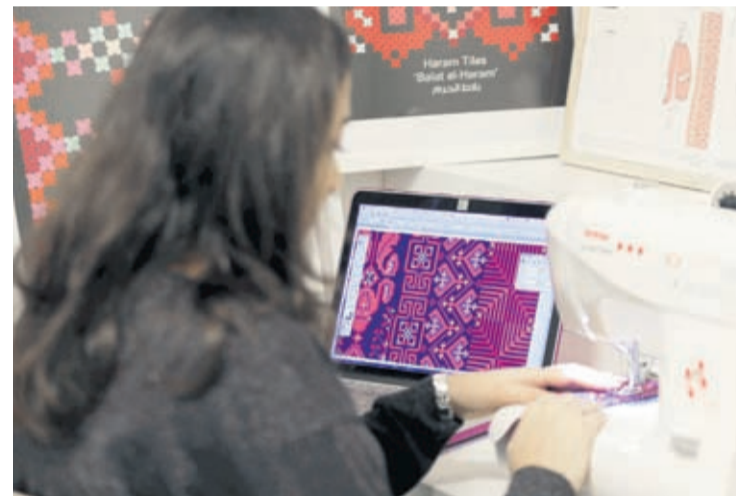
Now, Palestinian women of all social classes wear thobes to assert national pride at weddings and special occasions.

"It's a way of defending our national identity," Saca said. The care, toil, and skill that go into making a thobe prevent the garment from becoming everyday streetwear — or protest-

referencing a deep past with which people have positive associations."

Young Palestinian women, especially those in the diaspora, are adapting the ancestral dresses to modern tastes and trends. Girls are asking for shorter and less embroidered versions, said Rajaa Ghazawneh, a thobe designer in the West Bank town of al-Bireh.

Natalie Tahhan, a designer based in east Jerusalem, produces capes from digital prints that replicate traditional embroidery stitches, "connecting tradition with what is new and stylish." Tlaib's now-viral Palestinian thobe, which the Michigan Democrat called "an unapologetic



In this Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019 photo, designer Natalie Tahhan works in her studio in east Jerusalem.

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wear. But cheaper, mass-produced versions of the dress have sprouted up.

"A woman typically has one thobe to wear on occasions throughout her life — it's very expensive and impractical," said Maysoun Abed, director of a thobe exhibit in the West Bank city of Al-Bireh, near Ramallah. "But demand for the thobe still runs high as a way of expressing patriotism."

Although the robe shares potent patriotic subtext and roots in peasant life with the black-and-white checkered keffiyeh — made famous by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat — the thobe is infused with nostalgic, almost mythical associations.

"Embroidery evokes the timeless connection of Palestinians to the land," Dedman said. "It's a soft image,

display of the fabric of the people in this country" and said it evoked memories of her mother's West Bank village, rekindled enthusiasm worldwide about the dress.

"Rashida has become a model for Palestinian women everywhere — a strong woman proud of her national identity who can reach high," said Saca.

Tahhan agreed, saying that "Tlaib's thobe spread a beautiful picture of Palestine, when usually the media only show the wars."

For Palestinian women born abroad, and refugees barred from visiting their ancestral homes in what is now Israel, thobes are a tangible connection to the land and a way of keeping their culture alive.

"These dresses are our link between the past and future," Saca said. □



In this Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 photo, Samiha Jeheshat, displays a handmade embroidered Palestinian thobe at her showroom in the West Bank village of Idna, north of Hebron.

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